

To: Matthew Anderson[Matt@sifreedom.org]
Cc: Timothy Williams[timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov]
From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-06-07T10:00:06-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Scheduling a Meeting With the Department of the Interior
Received: 2017-06-07T10:00:43-04:00

Greetings From DOI,

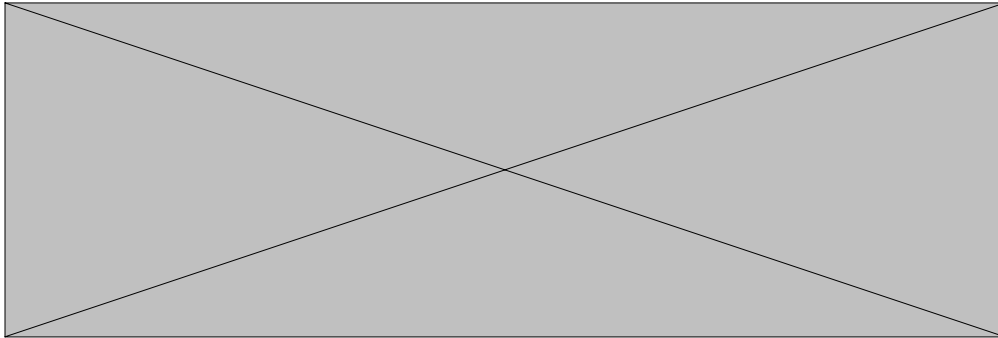
It is a pleasure to be able to reach out to you today and as the new Special Assistant working in Intergovernmental and External Affairs, I very much look forward to engaging in constructive communications with you and your organization.

I would like to extend an invitation to you in order to schedule a meeting with the acting Director of my Department Tim Williams and I, at your earliest convenience. Please use the information below to contact me via email or phone today, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best Wishes,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

To: Jason Funes[jfunes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Williams, Timothy
Sent: 2017-06-12T15:15:13-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Submits 45-Day Interim Report on Bears Ears National Monument and Extends Public Comment Period
Received: 2017-06-12T15:15:53-04:00



Date: June 12, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Submits 45-Day Interim Report on Bears Ears National Monument and Extends Public Comment Period

WASHINGTON - U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke submitted a 45-day interim report on Bears Ears National Monument to President Donald J. Trump on Saturday, June 10, 2017, in accordance with the April 26, 2017, [Executive Order](#) (EO). The order directs the Secretary to review monuments designated under the Antiquities Act between January 1, 1996, and the present date that are 100,000 acres or more in size, or any monument the Secretary deems to have been created without appropriate public input. The EO also directs the Secretary to submit an interim report regarding Bears Ears specifically to the President no more than 45 days from the date of the EO.

The EO states: "Within 45 days of the date of this order, the Secretary shall provide an interim report to the President... The interim report shall include recommendations for such Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other actions consistent with law as the Secretary may consider appropriate to carry out the policy set forth in section 1 of this order."

"I spent a lot of time on the ground in Utah, talking with people and understanding the natural and cultural significance of the area. There is no doubt that it is drop-dead gorgeous country and that it merits some degree of protection, but designating a monument that - including state land - encompasses almost 1.5 million-acres where multiple-use management is hindered or prohibited is not the best use of the land and is not in accordance with the intention of the Antiquities Act," said Secretary Zinke. "I've submitted my 45-day interim report to President Trump expressing

my belief that the monument needs to be right-sized and that it is absolutely critical that an appropriate part be co-managed by the Tribal nations. I also recommend that Congress take action to protect some areas.”

Regarding ongoing management and consultation with Tribal interests, Secretary Zinke said: “Co-management will be absolutely key going forward and I recommend that the monument, and especially the areas of significant cultural interest, be co-managed by the Tribal nations. I am grateful representatives from the Tribal governments met with me in Utah and am optimistic for our future.”

In May, Secretary Zinke traveled to Utah and held a four-day listening tour across the state to learn more about Bears Ears National Monument and the neighboring Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. When accounting for state and private land, the perimeter of Bears Ears encompasses almost 1.5 million acres. Grand Staircase is 1.7 million acres.

The Secretary met with state, local, and Tribal stakeholders and toured the monument by air, car, foot, and horseback. He met with elected officials from Tribal, federal, state, and local communities. He also met with representatives from agriculture, conservation, historic preservation, and tourism sectors, as well as private citizens. The Secretary also held daily press briefings during the trip.

The Secretary met with the Bears Ears InterTribal Coalition while visiting Bears Ears National Monument on May 7, and the Acting Deputy Secretary held a four-hour follow-up meeting with the Bears Ears Commission and the InterTribal Coalition on May 25.

Prior to the trip to Utah in early May, Secretary Zinke opened up a formal public comment period where members of the public could submit their statements regarding all monuments to the Secretary. This was the first time ever that a formal public comment period was set up for monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

“Local input is absolutely critical when it comes to federal land management decisions and as such, I’m extending the public comment period for Bears Ears. I want every advocate to have their voice heard,” said Secretary Zinke.

Due to the 120-day final review period for Bears Ears National Monument, the formal public comment period for Bears Ears will be extended through July 10th and will close with the overall comment period. Comments may be submitted on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) or by traditional mail. If an individual submitted a comment on Bears Ears during the initial comment period, they do not need to resubmit.

Executive Order 13792:

Executive Order 13792 of April 26, 2017 (82 FR 20429, May 1, 2017), directs the Secretary of the Interior to review certain National Monuments designated or expanded under the Antiquities Act of 1906, 54 U.S.C. 320301-320303 (Act). Specifically, Section 2 of the Executive Order directs the Secretary to conduct a review of all Presidential designations or expansions of designations under the Antiquities Act made since January 1, 1996, where the designation covers more than 100,000 acres, where the designation after expansion covers more than 100,000 acres,

or where the Secretary determines that the designation or expansion was made without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders, to determine whether each designation or expansion conforms to the policy set forth in section 1 of the order. Among other provisions, Section 1 states that designations should reflect the Act's "requirements and original objectives" and "appropriately balance the protection of landmarks, structures, and objects against the appropriate use of Federal lands and the effects on surrounding lands and communities." 82 FR 20429 (May 1, 2017).

In making the requisite determinations, the Secretary is directed to consider:

- (i) the requirements and original objectives of the Act, including the Act's requirement that reservations of land not exceed "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected";
 - (ii) whether designated lands are appropriately classified under the Act as "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, [or] other objects of historic or scientific interest";
 - (iii) the effects of a designation on the available uses of designated Federal lands, including consideration of the multiple-use policy of section 102(a)(7) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(7)), as well as the effects on the available uses of Federal lands beyond the monument boundaries;
 - (iv) the effects of a designation on the use and enjoyment of non-Federal lands within or beyond monument boundaries;
 - (v) concerns of State, tribal, and local governments affected by a designation, including the economic development and fiscal condition of affected States, tribes, and localities;
 - (vi) the availability of Federal resources to properly manage designated areas; and
 - (vii) such other factors as the Secretary deems appropriate.
- 82 FR 20429-20430 (May 1, 2017)

#

--

Department Of The Interior

External and Intergovernmental Affairs

Timothy Williams

timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov

Office: (202) 208 6015

Cell: (202) 706 4982

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-06-23T10:22:39-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: 2 Recent Press Releases :Cook Inlet Federal Lease Sale & Yellow Stone Grizzly Bear De-listing
Received: 2017-06-23T10:23:14-04:00
[Grizzly Bear De-Listing News Release FINAL.docx](#)

To Our MAGA Organizations,
Below and attached, you will find two recent press releases that may be of interest to you or your organizations.

If there is someone else in your department you prefer receive these type of DOI press releases, please respond to this email and I'll adjust my email list accordingly.

In the future I'll be sure to get these to you as soon as they release or at least the same day.

Thank you and let's MAGA,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)

PRESS RELEASE

June 21, 2017

Contact:
John Callahan
(907) 334-5208
john.callahan@boem.gov

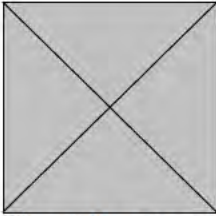
Cook Inlet Federal Lease Sale Yields over \$3 Million in High Bids

Lease sale first in Alaska's federal waters since 2008; Reflects growing industry interest in federal offshore oil and gas resources under Trump Administration

ANCHORAGE, Alaska -- Cook Inlet Lease Sale 244 -- the first lease sale held in Alaska's federal waters since 2008 -- today garnered \$3,034,815 in high bids for 14 tracts covering

roughly 76,615.5 acres in Cook Inlet, off Southcentral Alaska. All bids were submitted by Hilcorp Alaska LLC. [Read more...](#)

###



About the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) promotes economic development, energy independence, and environmental protection through responsible, science-based management of offshore conventional and renewable energy development.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: June 22, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces Recovery and Delisting of Yellowstone Grizzly Bear

Partners celebrate Endangered Species Act delisting following decades of collaboration

WASHINGTON Due to the success of conservation efforts and collaboration among a variety of stakeholders, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced today that the Yellowstone population of the grizzly bear has been recovered to the point where federal protections can be removed and overall management can be returned to the states and tribes. The population has rebounded from as few as 136 bears in 1975 to an estimated 700 today and meets all the criteria for delisting.

"As a kid who grew up in Montana, I can tell you that this is a long time coming and very good news for many communities and advocates in the Yellowstone region," said Secretary Zinke. "This achievement stands as one of America's great conservation successes; the culmination of decades of hard work and dedication on the part of the state, tribal, federal and private partners. As a Montanan, I'm proud of what we've achieved together."

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) consists of portions of northwestern Wyoming, southwestern Montana and eastern Idaho. Grizzly bear populations outside of this DPS in the lower 48 states will be treated separately under the ESA and will continue to be protected.

The GYE grizzly bear population is one of the best studied bear populations in the world thanks to the longstanding efforts of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team (IGBST). Population and habitat monitoring efforts undertaken by the IGBST indicate that GYE Grizzly Bears have more than doubled their range since the mid-1970s. They now occupy more than 22,500 square miles, an area larger than the states of New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut combined. Stable population numbers for grizzly bears for more than a decade also suggest that the GYE is at or near its capacity to support grizzly bears. This decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was informed by over four decades of intensive, independent scientific efforts.

The GYE grizzly bear population was determined to be recovered because multiple factors indicate it is healthy and will be sustained into the future. These factors include not only the

number and distribution of bears throughout the ecosystem, but also the quantity and quality of the habitat available and the states' commitments to manage the population from now on in a manner that maintains its healthy and secure status.

In addition to this final rule, the USFWS will also release a final supplement to the 1993 Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan for the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear population. The Conservation Strategy that describes management of the grizzly bear following delisting was finalized by the Yellowstone Ecosystem Subcommittee of the IGBC in December of 2016. That document can be found here: http://igbconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/161216_Final-Conservation-Strategy_signed.pdf.

The final rule, and the supporting documents, will publish in coming days in the *Federal Register* and the rule will take effect 30 days after publication. More information can be found here: <https://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/es/grizzlyBear.php>.

###

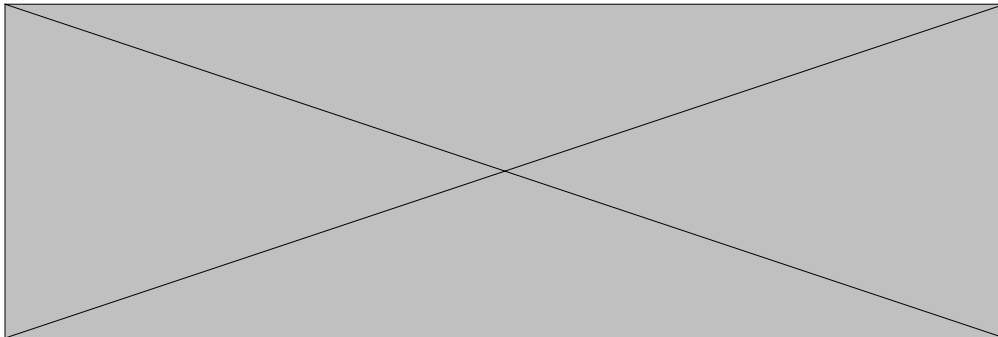
From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-06-27T18:08:02-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Press Release: Statement from Secretary Zinke on Navajo Nation Council vote to extend lease of Navajo Generating Station
Received: 2017-06-27T18:15:49-04:00

Esteemed Colleagues,

Here is today's press release regarding building relationships based on trust and collaboration with those on federal lands, especially when dealing with our tribal nations.

Best Wishes,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541



Date: June 27, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Statement from Secretary Zinke on Navajo Nation Council vote to extend lease of Navajo Generating Station

WASHINGTON Statement from U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke after the Navajo Nation Council has ratified a new lease with the Salt River Project to provide for continued operations of the Navajo Generating Station through 2019:

“Since the first weeks of the Trump Administration, one of Interior’s top priorities has been to roll up our sleeves with diverse stakeholders in search of an economic path forward to extend NGS and Kayenta Mine operations after 2019. Operating NGS and the Kayenta Mine through 2019 is the first step to meet this priority.

"This Navajo Nation Council’s endorsement of a new lease gives NGS and Kayenta Mine workers a fighting chance and gives Navajo and Hopi economies a moment to regroup for the work ahead. Now, NGS operations can continue while stakeholders examine opportunities for a new operating partner to extend the life of the plant beyond its original 50-year lease.

"I salute Council Speaker Lorenzo Bates and Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye for their leadership and their partnership. Interior is a proud defender of the Nation’s sovereignty as well as the sovereignty of the Hopi Tribe as we work together to chart the future of this important facility.”

BACKGROUND:

The Navajo Generating Station is a three-unit, 2,250-megawatt, coal-fired power plant located on tribal trust lands leased from the Navajo Nation near Page, Arizona. Coal for NGS comes from the Kayenta Mine located on tribal trust lands leased from the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe.

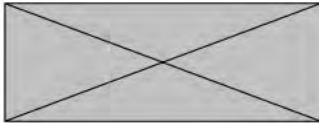
Current NGS co-owners have expressed their intention to not operate the facility after December 2019; as a result, stakeholders associated with NGS have been jointly discussing the facility’s future in talks facilitated by Interior.

Without the new lease ratified by the Navajo Nation this week, preparations to start the decommissioning of the plant would be required as early as next month. The new lease allows the operating owner of the facility the Salt River Project to defer any decommissioning activities until after the original 50-year lease period concludes, in December of 2019. This allows NGS and Kayenta Mine operations to continue in the near-term without interruption, and allows more time to find new ownership for NGS.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-06-27T18:20:45-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Note to Stakeholders: Leases Awarded for Gulf of Mexico Sale 247
Received: 2017-06-27T18:28:00-04:00

BOEM Completes Tract Evaluation



Dear Stakeholder,

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) completed its required evaluation to ensure the public receives fair market value for tracts leased in Central Gulf of Mexico Oil and Gas Lease Sale 247, held on March 22, 2017. The sale offered 9,118 unleased blocks, covering 48 million acres.

During Sale 247, 28 companies participated in submitting 189 bids on 163 tracts. A total of \$274,797,434 was received in high bids covering 913,542.21 acres. Of the tracts receiving bids, 22 were in water depths less than 200 meters and 141 were in water depths greater than 200 meters.

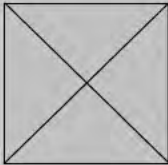
After extensive geological, geophysical, engineering, and economic analysis, BOEM awarded 153 tracts receiving bids and rejected 10 high bids. The 10 rejected high bids totaled \$10,848,507 and covered 56,365.79 acres. BOEM has determined that the value of those bids was insufficient to provide the public with fair market value for the tracts and will re-offer these tracts as part of the next lease sale, Sale 249 in August. The highest bid accepted was \$24,056,719 submitted by Shell Offshore Inc. for Atwater Valley 64. The tract receiving the greatest number bids was Garden Banks 1006 with five bids.

For more information on Sale 247 go to www.boem.gov/Sale-247.
Sincerely,

John Filostrat
Office of Public Affairs
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
(O) 504-731-7815
(C) 504-284-8605

About the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) promotes economic development, energy independence, and environmental protection through responsible, science-based management of offshore conventional and renewable energy and marine mineral resources.



For More Information:

BOEM
Office of Public Affairs
202.208.6474

Please visit us at

www.BOEM.gov

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-06-29T14:21:25-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Energy Week Announcement - Closed Press Call Info
Received: 2017-06-29T14:22:02-04:00

Greetings,

I'm happy to share the contact info for this historic press call leading up the official announcement at the Dept. of Energy at 3:30. Please keep the call in info close to the chest, yet involve anyone in your organization who may directly deal with energy issues.

Dial-in information for the 2:30 pm EDT call regarding Energy Week:

Thursday, June 29, at 2:30 PM Eastern

Call: (b)(5)

Passcode: Energy Week

****Embargoed until 3:40 PM Eastern****

MAGA,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

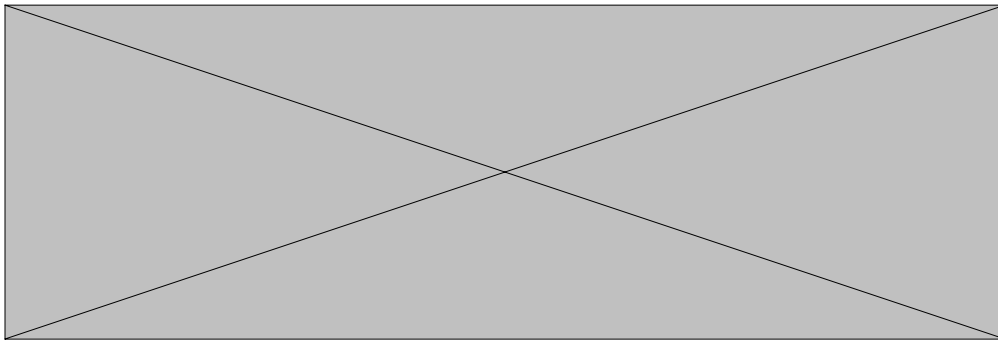
From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-06-29T15:59:14-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd:
Received: 2017-06-29T15:59:52-04:00

To All,

Below is the official press briefing regarding the President's announcement today at the Dept. of Energy with links to further detailed information.

MAGA,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541



Date: June 29, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

President Trump and Secretary Zinke Open up Comment Period for New 5-Year National Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program

*Request for Information (RFI) Begins Multi-Year Evaluation Process to Engage
Public, States, & Tribes*

WASHINGTON Today, at an Energy Week event hosted by Energy Secretary Rick Perry, President Donald J. Trump announced that Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke has taken action to open up the public comment period for a new 5-year National Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). President Trump announced on stage that the comment period is the first step in executing the new 5-year plan which was put in action by the April 28 executive order on American Energy. [The 2017-2022 Five Year Program](#), which is set to begin this summer, will continue to be executed until the new National OCS Program is

complete.

Monday's publication of the RFI begins a 45-day public comment period. Substantial public involvement and extensive analysis will accompany all stages of the planning process, which generally takes two to three years to complete. The notice will be on display in the Federal Register public reading room Friday and published in the Federal Register Monday, July 3. Comments will be accepted until 45 days after the publication date which will be July 3.

“Developing a new National Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program that respects environmental and economic sensitivities but still allows us to responsibly develop our resources is critical to reaching President Trump’s goal of American energy dominance,” **said Secretary Zinke.**

“Offering more areas for energy exploration and responsible development was a cornerstone of the President’s campaign and this action is the first step in making good on that promise for offshore oil and gas.”

“Under the last administration, 94% of the OCS was off-limits to responsible development, despite interest from state and local governments and industry leaders. The Trump Administration is dedicated to energy dominance, growing the economy and giving the public a say in how our natural resources are used, and that’s exactly what we are doing by opening up the Request For Information and a new 5-year plan,” **said Acting Assistant Secretary Kate MacGregor.**

The Secretary's Order calls for enhancing opportunities for energy exploration, leasing, and development of the OCS, establishing regulatory certainty for OCS activities, and enhancing conservation stewardship, thereby providing jobs, energy security, and revenue for the American people.

“Our country has a massive energy economy and we should absolutely wear it on our sleeves, rather than keep energy resources in the ground,” **said Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary of Interior for Energy Policy.** “This work will encourage responsible energy exploration and production, in order to advance the United States' position as a global energy force and foster security for the benefit of the American citizenry.”

Publication in the Federal Register of a Request for Information and Comments (RFI) on the Preparation of the 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program is the initial step. Per statute and consistent with previous efforts, BOEM will evaluate all 26 of the OCS planning areas during this first stage and is, therefore, requesting comments on all areas.

The initiation of a new National OCS Program development process, managed by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), is a key aspect of the implementation of President Donald Trump’s America First Offshore Energy Strategy, as outlined in the President’s Executive Order (E.O.) 13795 on April 28, 2017, which was amplified by Secretary Zinke’s DOI Order 3350 on May 1, 2017.

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act requires the Secretary of the Interior, through BOEM, to prepare and maintain a schedule of proposed oil and gas lease sales in federal waters, indicating the size, timing and location of auctions that would best meet national energy needs for the five-year period following its approval. In developing the National OCS Program, which has also

been known as a Five Year Program, the Secretary is required to achieve an appropriate balance among the potential for environmental impacts, for discovery of oil and gas, and for adverse effects on the coastal zone. As required by the President's Executive Order, DOI will cooperate with the Departments of Defense and Commerce on issues pertaining to this National OCS Program development process.

"This first step does not propose to schedule sales in particular areas, or make any preliminary decisions on what areas will be included in the schedule," **said BOEM Acting Director Walter Cruickshank**. "The RFI considers all areas of the Outer Continental Shelf and provides an opportunity for interested parties to submit comments and suggestions about the potential for leasing and to identify environmental and other concerns and uses that may be affected by offshore leasing."

BOEM seeks a wide array of input, including information on the economic, social and environmental values of all OCS resources, as well as the potential impact of oil and gas exploration and development on other resource values of the OCS and the marine, coastal and human environments.

Using the information received, BOEM will prepare a Draft Proposed Program, followed by a Proposed Program and a Proposed Final Program. Throughout the planning process, BOEM will consult with all interested parties and will seek additional public comment.

The current National OCS Program for 2017-2022 schedules 11 potential lease sales; 10 in the Gulf of Mexico and one in the Cook Inlet of Alaska.

BOEM currently manages more than 3,000 active OCS leases, covering more than 16 million acres—the vast majority in the Gulf of Mexico. Of those, approximately 885 are producing leases, covering 4.4 million acres. In 2016, OCS oil and gas leases accounted for about 18 percent of domestic oil production and 4 percent of domestic natural gas production. This production generates billions of dollars in revenue for state and local governments and the U.S. taxpayer, while supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Under the RFI announced today, comments will be accepted until August 17, 2017, in either of the following ways:

Electronically (preferred method): <https://www.boem.gov/Public-Engagement-Opportunities/> Open the "Open Comment Document" link and follow instructions to view relevant documents and submit comments.

In written form, deliver to: Ms. Kelly Hammerle, National Program Manager, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; 45600 Woodland Road-VAM-LD; Sterling, Virginia 20166.

Additional information on the process of developing the next National OCS Program as well as on the current National OCS Program can be found [here](#).

###

-

Heather Swift

Department of the Interior

@DOIPressSec

Heather_Swift@ios.doi.gov | Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-07-04T16:01:52-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Happy Independence Day To All!
Received: 2017-07-04T16:02:25-04:00

To All of You Patriotic Americans,
As we celebrate our Independence Day with friends and family, I wanted to extend to you all a warm and heart felt best wishes from all of us at the Department of the Interior.

We are all red, white, and blue blooded Americans that love our country and serve her in the best way we know how. Each and every single one of you possess a unique talent, skill set, and intellectual strength that you use daily to serve your fellow man. We thank you all for the hard work and dedication to your respective organizations, but most importantly the dedication you have to make your country a better place for all.

As a first generation American, I'm reminded on days like this of the sacrifices men and women have been making for this country for generations and generations. Today we honor those families who have paid the ultimate sacrifices in order to make this the greatest nation on Earth. Together we will we restore America to prominence and greatness once again!

Please enjoy the 241st celebration of our nation's Independence safely and thank you all for your unwavering support of all those Americans in your community and around the United States of America.

God bless you, your families, and may God bless America,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

<https://www.doi.gov/>

To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Chrissy Harbin
Sent: 2017-07-04T16:02:32-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Automatic reply: Happy Independence Day To All!
Received: 2017-07-04T16:02:51-04:00

Thanks for reaching out. I will be out of the country with limited access to email until July 11. I will respond after I return.

Happy Independence Day!

Chrissy Harbin

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-07-05T17:55:07-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: DOI Secretarial Order Regarding Onshore Energy - **Call-in Information**
Received: 2017-07-05T17:55:44-04:00

Esteemed Colleagues,
Tomorrow Secretary Zinke will be announcing a Secretarial Order regarding onshore oil and gas leasing permits/"onshore energy" at 12pm EST.

Below you will find the call-in information to listen to the Secretary himself making this announcement.

Please keep this information within your immediate organization and contact me if you believe someone else should have access to this information.

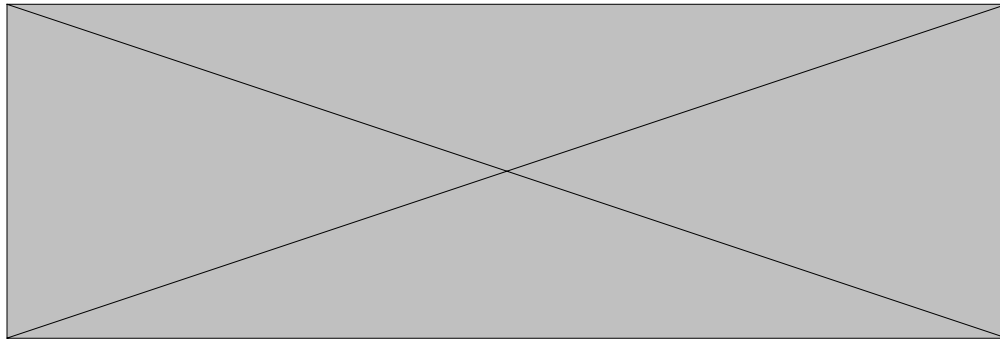
The official press release will be available later tomorrow.

Dial-in Phone #: (b)(6)
Passcode: ENERGY

MAGA,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-07-06T14:53:37-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Press Release: Zinke Signs Secretarial Order to Streamline Process for Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Permits
Received: 2017-07-06T14:54:15-04:00



Date: July 6, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

ZINKE SIGNS SECRETARIAL ORDER TO STREAMLINE PROCESS FOR FEDERAL ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING PERMITS

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today signed a secretarial order to tackle permitting backlogs and delays, identify solutions to improve the permitting process on federal lands, and to identify solutions to improve access to additional parcels of federal land that are appropriate for mineral development. As of January 31, 2017, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) had 2,802 Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) pending.

Despite the fact that statute requires that the Department and the BLM process APD review within 30 days, the average time to process an APD in FY16 was 257 days. The directive will improve the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program and the Federal Solid Mineral Leasing Program, which is a major source of income for the federal government and a critical component of American Energy Dominance.

“Oil and gas production on federal lands is an important source of revenue and job growth in rural America but it is hard to envision increased investment on federal lands when a federal permit can take the better part of a year or more in some cases. This is why I'm directing the BLM to conduct quarterly lease sales and address these permitting issues. We are also looking at opportunities to bring support to our front line offices who are facing the brunt of this workload.” **said Secretary Zinke.** “This is just good government and will further support the President's goal of American energy dominance.”

As of January 31, 2017, the BLM had 2,802 APDs pending. The five BLM field offices with the highest number of pending APDs are listed below which account for 2,060 or approximately 74 percent of the total pending APDs.

- Casper, Wyoming: APDs pending: 526
- Vernal, Utah: APDs pending: 506
- Dickinson, North Dakota: APDs pending: 488
- Carlsbad/Hobbs, New Mexico: APDs pending: 388
- Farmington, New Mexico: APDs pending: 152

Last year the Department canceled or postponed eleven lease sales. By contrast, the Trump Administration has already held more lease sales in the first six months than in the previous year, offered more acreage in those sales, and raised more revenue than in the same time period last year.

“The Department of the Interior will be a better neighbor in the new Trump Administration,” **Zinke added.** “As is outlined in this order, we will look at ways to improve the process and make sure regulations serve their intended purpose rather than create a mountain of useless paperwork. By streamlining approvals of responsible energy development on federal land, and actually holding lease sales, we will generate revenue for local communities and the Treasury to fund the things we all value like National Parks, infrastructure and education.”

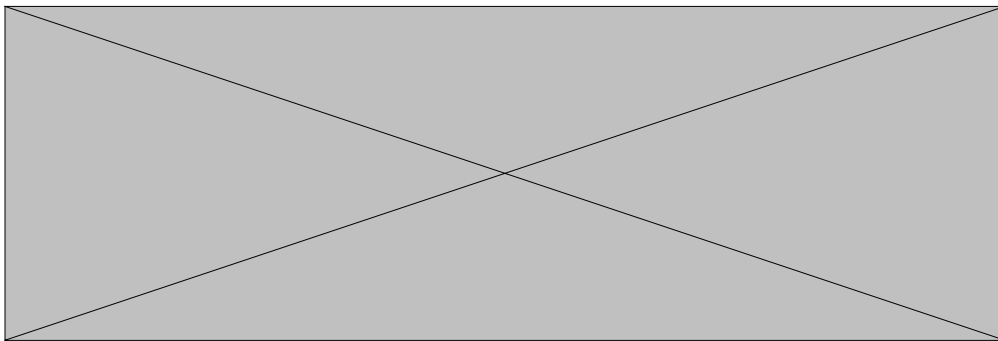
Secretarial Order 3354 directs the BLM to make both federal oil and gas resources and solid mineral resources on the public lands available for the benefit of the citizens of the United States. The Order is in compliance with the Mineral Leasing ACT (30 U.S.C. § 226), which requires oil and gas lease sales “be held for each State where eligible lands are available at least quarterly and more frequently if the Secretary of the Interior determines such sales are necessary.”

The order also directs the BLM to address permitting backlogs and identify areas where improvements can be made in the permitting process to ensure the safe and timely exploration and development of our nation's federal energy resources.

Currently, an applicant pays a non-refundable \$9,610 processing fee to the BLM per APD filed. Approved APDs are valid for two years from the date of approval as long as the lease does not expire during that time. For FY18, the President's budget proposal includes a \$16 million increase in the Oil and Gas Management program to support permitting and rights-of-way processing.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-07-08T12:22:10-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Announces Nearly \$32 Million in Boating Recreation and Tourism Grants
Received: 2017-07-08T12:22:45-04:00
[Grant Presentation 2.jpg](#)
[Grant Presentation 3.jpg](#)
[Grant Presentation.jpg](#)
[Roundtable Discussion 2.jpg](#)
[Roundtable Discussion 3.jpg](#)
[Roundtable Discussion.jpg](#)



Date: July 7, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces Nearly \$32 Million in Boating Recreation and Tourism Grants

Grants focus on keeping water clean for anglers, improving boating infrastructure and preserving maritime heritage

(YORKTOWN, VA) U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced nearly \$32 million in maritime- and boating-related grants that will benefit boating recreation and tourism by improving boating infrastructure, keeping water clean for anglers, and preserving maritime heritage and inland waterways. Secretary Zinke made the announcement at the Yorktown Historic Freight Shed Lawn at the Riverwalk Landing, where he was joined by local Congressman Scott Taylor.

The Secretary announced more than \$769,000 for Virginia at the Yorktown Historic Freight Shed Lawn at the Riverwalk Landing, which is slated to receive grant money. These funds supported wave attenuating transient docking facilities, restrooms and upgraded safety and security features benefiting recreational boaters. Prior to the event, the Secretary engaged in a

round table discussion with a variety of local boating and fishing stakeholders focusing on the relationship between the Department of the Interior and the boating industry.

The national funding announced today is made possible through three grant programs: \$14.7 million through the Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) program, \$15.4 million in funds through the Clean Vessel Act program, and \$1.7 million in Maritime Heritage Grants.

“These three grant programs provide support for boating recreation and tourism to local communities, whether through the preservation of American maritime heritage or by ensuring the facilities and waters anglers and boaters depends on are in the best condition,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Although these grants come from different funding sources, none would be possible without great partnerships.”

“Every day I work in Congress to put Virginia's Second District on Washington, D.C.'s priority list, and today I'm happy to say the Trump Administration and Secretary Zinke proved their commitment to our community,” said **Rep. Scott Taylor**. “Today's grants, which are mostly funded through the sale of boating equipment, will benefit boating recreation and tourism industries by improving infrastructure, protecting water, and preserving our shared coastal heritage. Today's announcement is a win for our community, our state and our nation.”

State/Territory	BIG Grant Tier I	BIG Grant Tier II	Clean Vessel Act	Maritime Heritage	Total
Alabama	\$200,000		\$265,861		\$465,861
Arizona	\$200,000				\$200,000
Arkansas			\$867,454		\$867,454
California		\$1,500,000	\$2,193,713	\$340,530	\$4,034,243
Connecticut	\$123,170		\$1,448,580	\$112,939	\$1,684,689
DC	\$199,995			\$49,700	\$249,695
Delaware	\$200,000				\$200,000
Florida			\$1,816,764	\$110,962	\$1,927,726
Georgia	\$77,761		\$82,281		\$160,042
Guam	\$200,000				\$200,000
Idaho	\$200,000		\$30,000		\$230,000
Illinois				\$82,277	\$82,277
Indiana	\$76,161				\$76,161
Iowa	\$200,000			\$66,999	\$266,999
Kentucky	\$165,000				\$165,000
Maine	\$200,000	\$1,890,165	\$405,280	\$92,141	\$2,587,586
Maryland				\$152,389	\$152,389
Massachusetts	\$193,319		\$788,903	\$50,000	\$1,032,222
Michigan	\$200,000	\$642,917	\$314,864		\$1,157,781
New Hampshire			\$162,121		\$162,121

New Jersey	\$200,000				\$200,000
New York	\$118,624			\$299,557	\$418,181
North Carolina	\$149,723		\$167,773		\$317,496
Ohio	\$200,000		\$393,232	\$18,540	\$611,772
Oklahoma	\$200,000				\$200,000
Oregon	\$200,000		\$1,452,138		\$1,652,138
Pennsylvania	\$200,000			\$107,689	\$207,689
Rhode Island	\$200,000			\$105,000	\$305,000
South Carolina	\$200,000	\$1,882,512	\$1,386,395		\$3,468,907
Tennessee	\$200,000		\$392,539		\$592,539
Texas	\$200,000	\$1,500,000			\$1,700,000
Vermont	\$200,000		\$97,966		\$297,966
Virginia	\$189,877		\$416,097	\$163,350	\$769,324
Washington	\$199,661	\$2,134,210	\$2,533,765		\$4,867,636
Wisconsin	\$200,000		\$225,841		\$425,841
Totals	\$5,193,291	\$9,549,804	\$15,441,567	\$1,752,073	\$31,936,735

Boating Infrastructure Grants

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "BIG" program provides funding to support dedicated boat tie-up facilities and associated amenities and helps Americans enjoy the nation's waters and our cherished wildlife, natural and cultural resources.

Approximately \$9.5 million will be awarded competitively to support 10 projects in six states under the BIG, from which states can receive up to \$1.5 million in federal funding per project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also provide approximately \$5.2 million to 29 states, commonwealths and territories under the BIG Tier I subprogram, from which recipients can obtain up to \$200,000 in federal funding. States and their partners will provide more than \$14.5 million in additional non-federal matching funds toward these projects.

Funding for the BIG program comes from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which boaters and manufacturers fund through excise and other taxes on certain fishing and boating equipment and gasoline. Since its inception in 2000, the BIG program has awarded \$180 million to projects for large transient recreational boats, including the construction of more than 5,000 berths for boaters across most states and U.S. territories.

For more information about the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program visit <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/>.

Clean Vessel Act Grants

\$15.4 million will go to 20 states through Clean Vessel Act program grants from the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service. Pump-out systems built or purchased with these funds ensure recreational boaters have a safe, convenient and effective method to dispose of on-board sewage. The funds also support associated boater education programs.

Boaters and manufacturers contribute to the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund through excise taxes and duties on certain fishing and boating equipment and boating fuels.

Since the program's inception in 1993, the Service has allocated more than \$234 million from that fund in CVA grants to U.S. states and territories to help keep the nation's waterways clean.

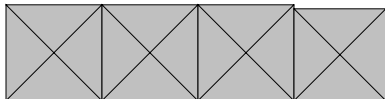
The CVA program's support through the user-pay-public-benefit cycle has contributed to the success of the Sport Fish Restoration program. States can apply for CVA funding, and they or their partners provide matching funds to complete projects. Sub-grantees often include local municipalities and private marinas. These partnership efforts are a win-win for clean water and the many families who enjoy recreational boating and the great outdoors.

Maritime Heritage Grants

The National Park Service is distributing \$1,752,073 for 27 maritime heritage grants to applicants in 13 states and the District of Columbia. In partnership with the Maritime Administration (MARAD), the National Park Service awarded grants for projects that teach about and preserve sites and objects related to our nation's maritime history.

The National Park Service will administer these projects as direct grants to State Historic Preservation Offices, who will disburse funds to applicants.

###







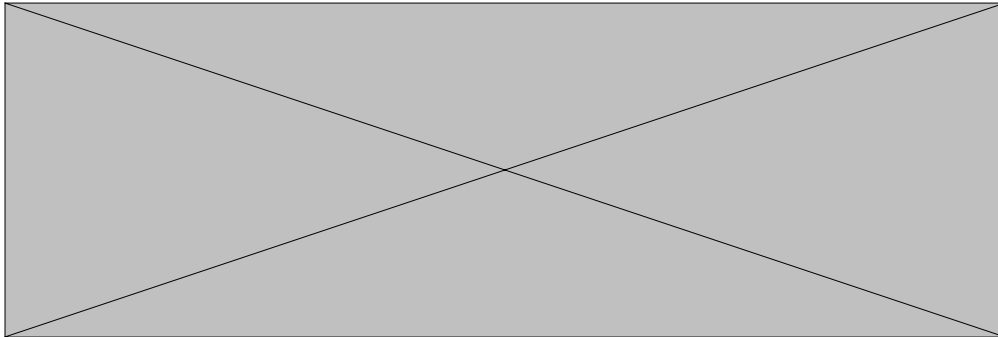








From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-07-11T17:38:35-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's Statement on the End of the Monuments Review Public Comment Period
Received: 2017-07-11T17:39:12-04:00



Date: July 11, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's Statement on the End of the Monuments Review Public Comment Period

(WASHINGTON) On Monday, July 10, the formal public comment period closed for the review of national monuments. More than 1.2 million comments were received on Regulations.gov and thousands more were received via traditional mail. Twenty-seven national monuments designated since January 1, 1996 that are more than 100,000 acres, or that were considered to have inadequate public input are under review in accordance with [President Donald J. Trump's April 26, 2017, executive order](#).

"Too often under previous administrations, decisions were made in the Washington, D.C., bubble, far removed from the local residents who actually work the land and have to live with the consequences of D.C.'s actions. This monument review is the exact opposite," **said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke**. "President Trump and I opened the formal public comment period the first-ever for monuments designated under the Antiquities Act in order to give local stakeholders a voice in the decision-making process. After hearing some feedback, I'd like to remind and reassure folks that even if a monument is modified, the land will remain under federal ownership. I am strictly opposed to the sale or transfer of our public lands, and nothing in this review changes that policy."

"These comments, in addition to the extensive on-the-ground tours of monuments and meetings with stakeholders, will help inform my recommendations on the monuments," **Zinke said**. "I appreciate everyone who took the time to log-on or write in and participate in our government."

As required by the executive order, Secretary Zinke submitted an interim report to the White House in June with various recommendations and observations on Bears Ears National Monument, which suggested the monument be reduced in size to conform with the intent of the Antiquities Act, that of designating the smallest compatible area. The report also recommended the creation of a national conservation area, and official co-management by the local Tribal governments.

The report came after Zinke spent several days on the ground in Utah touring the monument by air, car, foot, and horseback, speaking with stakeholders from Tribal, local, state and federal government, as well as representatives from the conservation, historic preservation, agriculture, tourism, and education sectors. The Secretary met with the Bears Ears InterTribal Coalition while in Salt Lake City on May 7, and the Acting Deputy Secretary Jim Cason held a four-hour follow-up meeting with the Bears Ears Commission and the InterTribal Coalition on May 25.

The Secretary also traveled to Maine's Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, and to Boston to hold meetings on the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Marine Monument off the coast of New England. The Secretary plans to visit Oregon, New Mexico, and Nevada in the coming weeks.

Regarding the comment period, the executive order stated:

In making the requisite determinations, the Secretary is directed to consider:

(i) the requirements and original objectives of the Act, including the Act's requirement that reservations of land not exceed "the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected";

(ii) whether designated lands are appropriately classified under the Act as "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, [or] other objects of historic or scientific interest";

(iii) the effects of a designation on the available uses of designated Federal lands, including consideration of the multiple-use policy of section 102(a)(7) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(7)), as well as the effects on the available uses of Federal lands beyond the monument boundaries;

(iv) the effects of a designation on the use and enjoyment of non-Federal lands within or beyond monument boundaries;

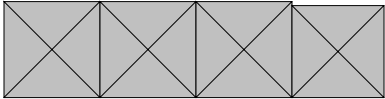
(v) concerns of State, tribal, and local governments affected by a designation, including the economic development and fiscal condition of affected States, tribes, and localities;

(vi) the availability of Federal resources to properly manage designated areas; and

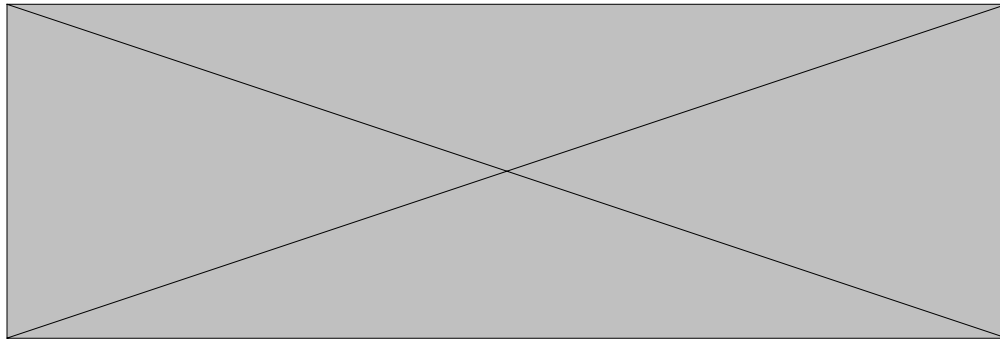
(vii) such other factors as the Secretary deems appropriate.

82 FR 20429-20430 (May 1, 2017).

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-07-13T18:50:15-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Announces 76 Million Acres Offered in Gulf of Mexico Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale
Received: 2017-07-13T18:50:52-04:00



Date: July 13, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
John Filostrat (BOEM) 504-731-7815
john.filostrat@boem.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces 76 Million Acres Offered in Gulf of Mexico Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale

All Unleased Areas of Federal Waters Available, Shallow Water Leases to See Reduced Royalties

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced that the Department will offer 75.9 million acres offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida for oil and gas exploration and development. The region-wide lease sale scheduled for August 16, 2017 will include all available unleased areas in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and provide a reduced royalty rate for shallow water leases to encourage exploration and production under current market conditions.

Lease Sale 249, scheduled to be livestreamed from New Orleans, will be the first offshore sale under the National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022. Under this program, ten region-wide lease sales are scheduled for the Gulf, where resource potential and industry interest are high, and oil and gas infrastructure is well established. Two Gulf lease sales will be held each year and include all available blocks in the combined Western, Central, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas.

On June 29, President Donald J. Trump and Secretary Zinke announced the public comment period for a new Five-Year National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The comment period is

the first step in executing the new program. The 2017-2022 Program, which begins with the lease sale announced today, will continue to be executed until the new National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program is complete.

"Our Outer Continental Shelf lands offer vast energy development opportunities and we are committed to encouraging increased energy exploration and production in these offshore areas to maintain the Nation's global dominance in energy production," **Secretary Zinke said.** "As a global energy leader, we will foster energy security and resilience for the benefit of the American people. A strong offshore energy plan that responsibly harnesses more of our resources will spur economic opportunities for industry, states, and local communities, creating jobs and revenue. That's why we also are developing a new national Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas program that will best meet our future energy needs."

Lease Sale 249 will include about 14,220 unleased blocks, located from three to 231 miles offshore, in the Gulf's Western, Central and Eastern planning areas in water depths ranging from nine to more than 11,115 feet (three to 3,400 meters). Excluded from the lease sale are blocks subject to the Congressional moratorium established by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap; and whole blocks and partial blocks within the current boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

"To advance commonsense domestic energy production, the terms of this sale have been developed through extensive environmental analysis, public comment, and consideration of the best available information," said **Counselor to the Secretary on Energy Policy Vincent DeVito.** "This will ensure appropriate resource development and further our energy dominance strategy."

The Gulf of Mexico OCS, covering about 160 million acres, has technically recoverable resources of 550 million barrels of oil and 1.25 trillion cubic feet of gas, accounting for nearly three-fourths of the oil and a fourth of the natural gas produced on federal lands.

The lease sale terms include stipulations to protect biologically sensitive resources, mitigate potential adverse effects on protected species, and avoid potential conflicts associated with oil and gas development in the region. Additionally, BOEM has included appropriate fiscal terms that take into account market conditions and ensure taxpayers receive a fair return for use of the OCS. These terms include a 12.5 percent royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters of water depth, and a royalty rate of 18.75 percent for all other leases issued pursuant to the sale.

The 12.5 percent royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters is lower than the proposed 18.75 percent royalty rate for shallow water leases that BOEM published in the Proposed Notice of Sale. The purpose of this change is to adjust the royalty rate to reflect recent market conditions, thereby encouraging competition and continuing to receive a fair and equitable return on oil and gas resources.

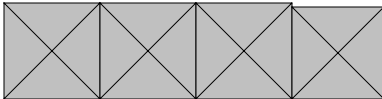
"The rate change reflects this Administration's willingness to swiftly respond to economic indicators," said DeVito. "The 12.5 percent royalty rate is closer in harmony with the current market and federal onshore lease sales."

As of July 3, 2017, 15.6 million acres on the U.S. OCS are under lease for oil and gas development (2947 active leases) and 4.1 million of those acres (842 leases) are producing oil and natural gas. More than 97 percent of these leases are in the Gulf of Mexico; about 3 percent are on the OCS off California and Alaska.

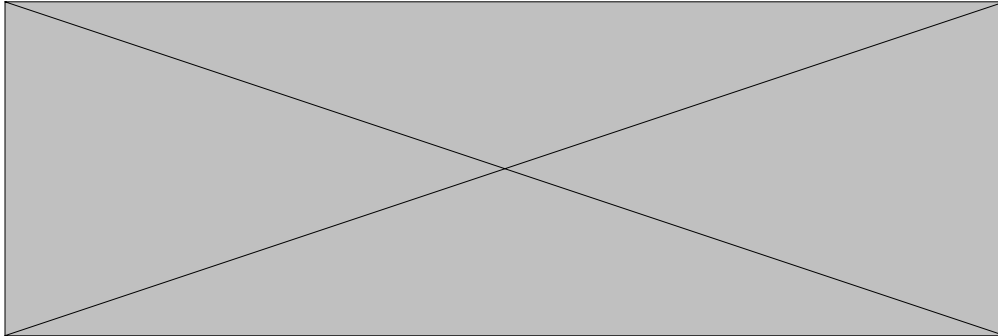
All terms and conditions for Gulf of Mexico Region-wide Sale 249 are detailed in the Final Notice of Sale (FNOS) information package, which is available at: <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-249/>. Copies of the FNOS maps can be requested from the Gulf of Mexico Region's Public Information Unit at 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70123, or at 800-200-GULF (4853).

The Notice of Availability of the FNOS is available today for inspection in the Federal Register at: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/public-inspection/index.html> and will be published in the Federal Register on July 17, 2017.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-07-18T18:58:15-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Announces Made in America Recreation Advisory Committee
Received: 2017-07-18T19:52:59-04:00



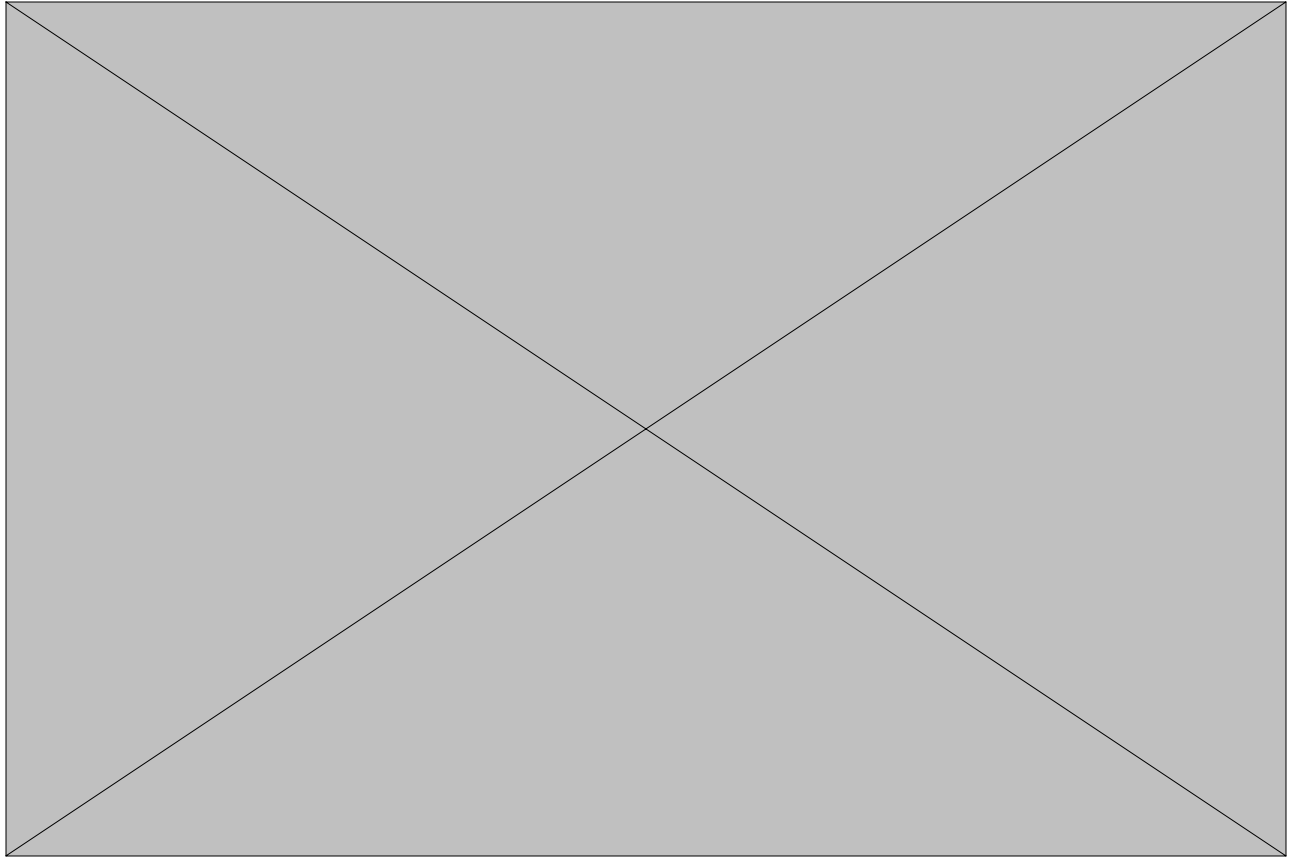
Date: July 18, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces Made in America Recreation Advisory Committee

Hosts events to promote public-private partnerships on public lands

Photos for media use can be found [here](#).

WASHINGTON Today, at an event with members of Indiana's Congressional delegation, and representatives from America's outdoor recreation industry, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced his intent to create a new advisory committee that will focus on expanding public-private partnerships on America's public lands. The Secretary hosted a roundtable meeting which focused on leveraging public-private partnerships in order to improve visitor experiences on public lands and waters, while also helping to reduce the Department's maintenance backlog. Public-private partnerships are already employed extensively across the National Park Service and other agencies, from managing campgrounds and restaurant management to providing kayak and RV rentals.



“One of my top priorities is to expand recreational access to public lands and waters. Today I'm excited to announce that, for the first time, the Department of the Interior will host a recreation advisory committee dedicated to looking at public-private partnerships across all public lands, with the goal of expanding access to and improving the infrastructure on public lands,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “We already have thousands of private partners who operate on federal lands. Whether it's the iconic Jammers in Glacier National Park, the historic El Tovar lodge at the Grand Canyon, or the kayaks that you can rent on the Potomac River, American workers are at the heart of helping American families experience our great outdoors.”

“Northern Indiana is the RV Capital of the World, so Hoosiers know just how vital outdoor recreation is to growing our economy and creating good jobs for American workers,” **Congresswoman Walorski said**. “This opportunity to boost investment in outdoor tourism through public-private partnerships is a turning point for keeping America’s parks open for business and building even more American-made RVs and boats. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke to ensure RV and boat manufacturers continue to play a key role in strengthening outdoor recreation and our nation’s economy.”

“It was an important meeting to communicate our respective views about the need to provide high quality, contemporary visitor services in our National Parks. NPHA members stand ready to support our NPS partners in any way possible. After meeting with Secretary Zinke, today NPHA members are more committed than ever to provide a broad range of high quality services to ensure NPS visitors have amazing experiences,” **said Terry MacRae, Chairman, National Park Hospitality Association**. “We are proud to be good partners of the National Park Service

today, making park visits great experiences. With a little help from the agency, we can be great partners, applying contemporary skills and strategic investments.”

“We’ve honed our skills working with the military across the nation and the world. Now we are focusing on national parks providing great connectivity to park visitors at zero cost to taxpayers. With this connectivity, we can help deliver vital information, great interpretive information and even help visitors contribute to the places they love,” said **Tim Rout, CEO, AccessParks**.

“Secretary Zinke’s support of public-private partnerships will help expand access to public lands for outdoor recreation, update recreation sites, and reduce the maintenance backlog within our public lands and waters, which aligns perfectly with the needs and interests of the boating industry and our partners in the ORIR,” said **NMMA President Thom Dammrich**. “Working with our partners in ORIR we are helping to identify real-world solutions to improve boater access across the country, while generating awareness among key decision makers in Washington of boating’s significant impact in the lives of the American people. We’re proud to be able to showcase the more than 35,000 U.S. businesses that make up the recreational boating industry and speak on their behalf, as we work together to protect boating for the millions of American boaters and the industry that produces the products that help them enjoy the lifestyle they love.”

Roundtable participants gave specific examples about how public-private partnerships can make the outdoor recreation experience even better, and how the economy can be impacted by the tens of thousands of American manufacturing jobs these products support. Members of the outdoor industry presented a variety of proposals to the Interior, including:

- Expanding Wi-Fi connectivity in parks
- Upgrading visitor accommodations
- Expanding visitor services

Outdoor recreation is vital to the economic and physical well-being of America and its citizens. According to industry analysis, the outdoor recreation industry generates \$887 billion in direct spending and supports 7.6 million jobs across all 50 states.

“Not everyone can get to the backcountry and sleep in a hammock tethered to a rock wall. We need to encourage families and folks of all interest levels to enjoy our parks and other outdoor areas, making our land accessible to them,” said **Zinke**. “We have wonderful partners who proudly make their outdoor products in America. We can leverage these partners to help address the maintenance backlog on things like boat ramps, RV hookups, campgrounds, and cafeterias as long as the government is a willing collaborator.”

Government officials and outdoor recreation industry leaders representing the following organizations participated in the events:

Government Officials

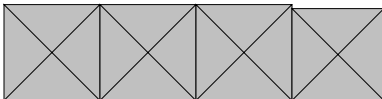
- Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke

- Senator Todd Young - IN
- Congresswoman Jackie Walorski - IN 2nd District
- Congressman Jim Banks - IN 3rd District
- Todd Willens, Acting Assistant Secretary Fish and Wildlife and Parks
- Mike Reynolds, Acting Director of the National Park Service
- Greg Sheehan, Acting Director of U.S. Fish Wildlife and Parks
- John Ruhs, Acting Deputy Director of the Bureau of Land Management
- Doug Domenech, Senior Adviser to the Secretary

Made in America Partners

- Julie Broadway - President - American Horse Council
- Derrick Crandall - President - American Recreation Coalition
- Jay McAninch - CEO & President - Archery Trade Association
- Kirk La - Chairman & CEO - BoatU.S
- Terry MacRae - CEO - Hornblower Cruises
- Edward Klim - President - International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
- Tim Buche - President & CEO - Motorcycle Industry Council
- Phil Ingrassia - President - Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association
- Frank Hugelmeyer - President - Recreation Vehicle Industry Association
- KC Walsh - CEO - Simms Fishing in Bozeman, MT & American Sportfishing Association
- Tim Rout - CEO - AccessParks
- Thomas Dammrich - President - National Marine Manufacturers Association
- Duane Taylor - Exec Director - National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council

###



[Update subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#)

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-07-18T20:30:06-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: ICYMI: Secretary Zinke joins Fox and Friends
Received: 2017-07-18T20:56:05-04:00

ICYMI: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on FOX & Friends: There's nothing more "Made in America" than our National Parks System

Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke on the all-American outdoor experience

ANCHOR: *"How do we vacation here in America? What's the best way?"*

SECRETARY ZINKE: *"Well, certainly get out there. There's nothing more "Made in America" than our National Parks system. It's summer, get out there with the kids. We're looking at public private partnerships to expand our campgrounds. A lot of our campgrounds are still in the Eisenhower Era of a station wagon and tent. So, we're looking at expanding opportunity in our parks, in and around our parks, improving trail systems. We're looking at public private partnerships to utilize innovation in the private market, and then bring it to make sure we have a great experience in our National Parks."*

###

--

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-07-19T19:20:31-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: In Typical Washington Post Fashion
Received: 2017-07-19T19:29:19-04:00

In case you haven't seen this yet...

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/im-a-scientist-the-trump-administration-reassigned-me-for-speaking-up-about-climate-change/2017/07/19/389b8dce-6b12-11e7-9c15-177740635e83_story.html?utm_term=.06218e4a5215

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-07-28T11:49:44-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Advisory: Grizzly Bear De-Listing Comment Period Closing Soon
Received: 2017-07-28T11:50:22-04:00

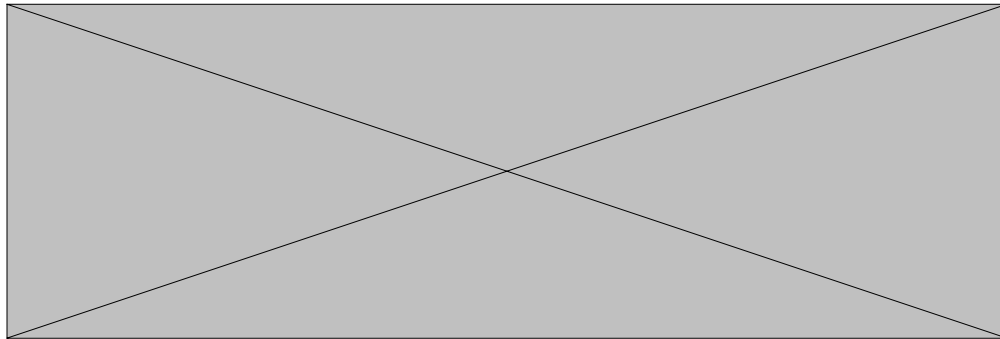
Just An FYI,
Public comment for the Grizzly Bear de-listing ends July 31st. Below is the link for further information.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/06/30/2017-13160/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-removing-the-greater-yellowstone-ecosystem-population>

--

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-07-31T12:44:53-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: SECRETARY ZINKE OPENS UP CHARLES M. RUSSELL WILDLIFE REFUGE FOR EMERGENCY GRAZING RELIEF
Received: 2017-07-31T12:45:28-04:00



Date: July 29, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

SECRETARY ZINKE OPENS UP CHARLES M. RUSSELL WILDLIFE REFUGE FOR EMERGENCY GRAZING RELIEF

Cattle to arrive on Refuge in coming days

JORDAN, MT Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will open the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge (CMR) for emergency grazing relief. Allotments will be made immediately available for ranchers who lost grazing land in the Lodgepole Complex fires.

"We have a saying that Montana is one small town with really long roads, and as a neighbor in that small town, the Department is dedicated to providing disaster relief and resources where possible," **said Secretary Zinke.** "When I talk about restoring trust between local communities and the federal government, and being a good neighbor, this is exactly what I mean. My staff and I heard from ranchers, equipment dealers, and other concerned citizens, and we all got to work. I applaud the quick work and flexibility of the team at the CMR for getting this done for the community."

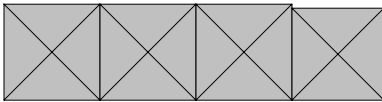
"This is a difficult time for many families in Montana and we are eager to get to work as neighbors do and help people impacted by this fire disaster. We stand ready to welcome our neighbors in need," **said Paul Santavy, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Charles M. Russell Refuge manager.**

"I am proud to have worked with Secretary Zinke to find immediate help for our hard working ranching families," **said Senator Steve Daines.**

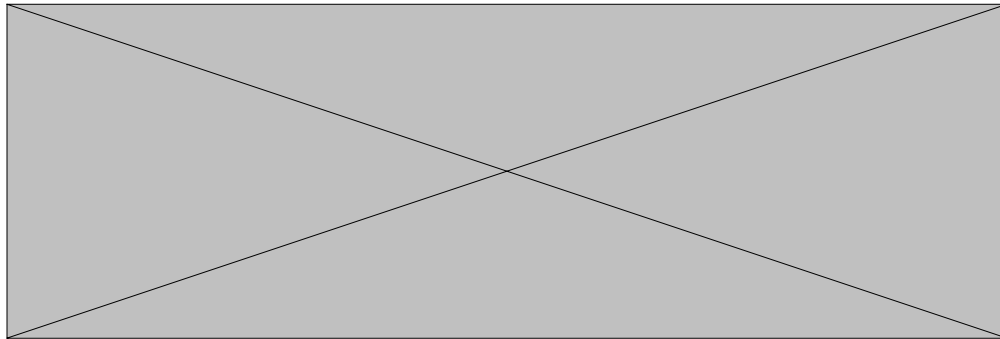
"Secretary Zinke's decision is a common sense solution to help Montana's farmers and ranchers impacted by the Lodgepole Complex fires. I appreciate Ryan sharing our sense of urgency and responding quickly to our letter requesting aid," **said Congressman Greg Gianforte.** "The fact is we have grass available and hungry cows. Allowing them to graze on retired grazing allotments within the CMR just makes sense."

For assistance, ranchers can contact the Refuge at (406) 538-8706.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-07-31T18:08:05-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Secretary Zinke Applauds Mine Proposal to Create Jobs in Virginia and West Virginia
Received: 2017-07-31T18:08:43-04:00



Date: July 31, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Secretary Zinke Applauds Mine Proposal to Create Jobs in Virginia and West Virginia

WASHINGTON Today U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke applauded the initial construction of the Berwind Mine located on the border of West Virginia and Virginia. The developers, Ramaco Resources, expect the mine to initially create 50 good-paying jobs and employ roughly 200 coal miners when the mine reaches its projected production level. The Berwind Coal Reserve is estimated to contain about 72 million tons of clean recoverable metallurgical coal, which is critical for infrastructure and is used for steel, roads, bridges, and building construction. The Berwind Mine will produce about 800,000 tons per year and will create jobs in some of the hardest-hit areas of Appalachian region including McDowell County, West Virginia as well as Buchanan and Tazewell Counties in Virginia.

Although the mine is on private land, the Department of the Interior, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, had a role in approving wildlife conservation plans for two species of crayfish in conjunction with the State of West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection.

"Appalachia's coal workers are at the heart of rebuilding our nation's infrastructure because we can't build if we don't access our natural resources," **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. "Under President Trump's leadership, the Department of the Interior is dedicated to being a good partner with local communities. This administration is dedicated to streamlining permitting and approval processes, and empowering local employees to get work done on the front lines. The Berwind Mine is the first of many projects that demonstrate the Trump Administration's commitment to coal country and to good government."

"Ramaco appreciates the Trump Administration and the Department of the Interior taking an interest in our project and helping find a solution relative to this unnecessary delay," **said Michael Bauersachs, the CEO of Ramaco Resources**. "Coal mining jobs can be created and preserved by a more pragmatic approach to regulation. On behalf of the coal industry, we look forward to seeing better and more timely results from agencies who interact with coal mining."

"On behalf of Secretary Zinke, it was a pleasure to meet the folks in West Virginia involved in this project and to work together to resolve the issues for immediate progress," **said Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy**. "This Administration's common sense approach to reasonable regulations enables us to deliver results."

The West Virginia Coal Association (WVCA) sang President Trump's praises for his administration's commitment to rebuilding America's coal communities. "Once again, President Trump has shown West Virginia coal miners that he meant it when he said he would help them get back to work," **said WVCA Vice President Jason Bostic**. "This administration shows exactly how the federal government can be a partner with the states and facilitate coal mining development while still fulfilling its responsibilities to protect the environment."

"The expansion of the Berwind mine will create 50 well-paying jobs, and is a perfect example of what we can achieve when government works as a partner not an adversary," **Senator Joe Manchin said**. "It is good news for McDowell County and all of West Virginia. We know that coal will be in the energy mix for decades to come and I'm encouraged by the work of Secretary Zinke and the Fish and Wildlife Service in ensuring this project moves forward. This mine will produce 800,000 tons of clean recoverable metallurgical coal annually that will help rebuild our roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure. This mine is a key ingredient to powering our country's infrastructure restoration. I look forward to hearing about Berwind mine's positive impact on McDowell County, I applaud this decision, and I will continue to fight for economic growth throughout our great state."

"Not only will the Berwind Mine help create jobs for West Virginians, but it will also help our state continue leading the push to improve and expand America's energy potential," **Senator Shelley Moore Capito said**. "It's great to see the public and private sectors working together to advance this project, and I appreciate the administration's continued support in promoting a true all-of-the-above energy strategy both in West Virginia and across the country."

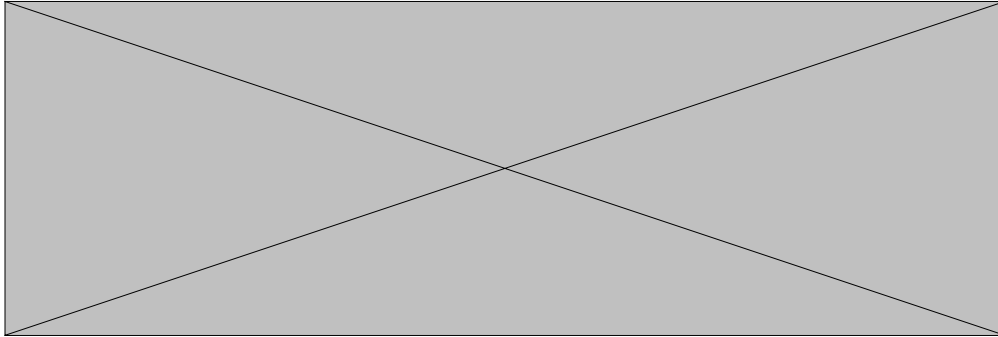
"I welcome the expansion of the Berwind mine, which extends into Buchanan and Tazewell Counties," **said Virginia Congressman Morgan Griffith**. "Miners, other workers at the mine, and employees of mining supply companies will be put to work and be able to spend money in their communities. Localities will receive the appropriate coal severance taxes, which will help support their schools. Thus, Southwest Virginia will benefit from this move."

"Finally, after eight years of anti-coal policies, coal is beginning to see a rebound," **said West Virginia Congressman David B. McKinley, P.E., chairman of the Congressional Coal Caucus**. "From increased exports to new mines opening, we're seeing positive developments in coal country. The Trump Administration is committed to bringing coal jobs back, and we look forward to working together to do just that."

West Virginia Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection Austin Caperton said, “The legislation that created the WVDEP mandates that we protect the environment ‘in a manner consistent with the benefits to be derived from strong... energy-producing industries’ (WV Code 22-1-1(b)(4). We applaud all efforts at the federal level that allow us to carry out our mission and strike the proper balance.”

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-07-31T20:54:46-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Announces Revised Strategy, Policies to More Effectively Reduce Fractionation of Tribal Lands
Received: 2017-07-31T20:55:20-04:00



Date: July 31, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Announces Revised Strategy, Policies to More Effectively Reduce Fractionation of Tribal Lands

WASHINGTON Following extensive analysis and feedback received from tribal leaders and American Indian landowners, the Department of the Interior today announced a revised strategy for the consolidation of fractional land interests through the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations (Program). The strategy, which will more effectively allocate the remaining Program funds to reduce the maximum amount of fractional interests, includes a revised schedule for implementation, as well as new opportunities for tribal governments to use the Program's tools and systems to facilitate their own land consolidation initiatives.

The Program implements the land consolidation component of the *Cobell* Settlement, which provided \$1.9 billion to purchase fractional interests in trust or restricted land from willing sellers at fair market value. Interests consolidated through the Program are restored to tribal trust ownership. Since the Program began making offers in December 2013, about \$1.2 billion has been paid to landowners at 45 locations, more than 700,000 fractional interests have been consolidated, and the equivalent of over 2.1 million acres of land has been transferred to tribal governments. As a result, tribal ownership now exceeds 50 percent in almost 14,000 tracts of land, which strengthens tribal sovereignty and self-determination, and allows for investments in tribal infrastructure and community projects.

Under the direction of new Departmental leadership, the Program has undergone a full review to determine how best to allocate the remaining \$540 million to maximize the interests consolidated the purpose specifically set forth in the *Cobell* Settlement. That strategic analysis included how to make the most effective use of the Administrative Fund to facilitate the

Program, as well as additional measures to address land fractionation.

“The revised strategy announced today maximizes the remaining dollars left for the implementation of the Buy-Back Program and seeks to achieve the greatest reduction of fractional interests, the largest number possible of landowners able to participate, and the most effective use of the Department’s resources,” said Associate Deputy Secretary James Cason. “However, while the Department is doing what it can to improve the Program, it is clear Congress has a role as well. We continue to look to congressional leaders for long-term solutions to address the problem of fractionated lands.”

“As someone who has been involved with this Program since its inception, this significant policy shift announced today is responsive to the tribal feedback we have received over the past several years,” added Acting Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs Michael S. Black. “Tribal input and involvement has been a cornerstone of Program implementation. I see that continuing and know that we must work together on many fronts to address the fractionation of tribal lands.”

Fractionation affects nearly 11 million acres of land across Indian Country, preventing beneficial uses of significant resources and creating an overly complicated land tenure status where single tracts of land, like those at Navajo Nation, have more than 1,200 landowners. When tracts have multiple owners, it is difficult to obtain the required approvals for leases or other uses of these lands. As a result, many tracts are unoccupied and unavailable for any purpose.

REVISED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Over the past several months, the Program has undergone a thorough analysis that took into consideration tribal feedback received through the open comment period announced in the *Federal Register*, during multiple meetings the Department engaged in, and at the Program’s 2017 Listening Session (transcript and presentation available online at: <https://www.doi.gov/buybackprogram/about/past-presentations>). The analysis also reviewed opportunities to leverage government resources and reduce administrative costs in Program implementation, especially as it relates to the management of small fractional interests. This would allow more resources to be used for land consolidation.

Based on several key factors, Interior then developed a revised process for determining on which ownership interests to make purchase offers. Those factors included: severity of fractionation; appraisal complexity; degree of ownership overlap between locations or geographic proximity; tribal readiness; past response rate; and cost and efficiency (including land value).

With these factors in mind, the Department developed a revised schedule to implement the Program at the following locations (in alphabetical order):

- Blackfeet (Montana)
- Bois Forte (Minnesota)
- Cheyenne and Arapaho (Oklahoma)
- Cheyenne River (South Dakota)
- Crow (Montana)
- Fond du Lac (Minnesota)
- Fort Belknap (Montana)

Fort Berthold (North Dakota)
Fort Peck (Montana)
Navajo (Arizona, New Mexico, Utah)
Northern Cheyenne (Montana)
Pine Ridge (South Dakota)
Rosebud (South Dakota)
Santee Sioux (Nebraska)
Skokomish (Washington)
Spirit Lake (North Dakota)
Standing Rock (North and South Dakota)
Umatilla (Oregon)
Warm Springs (Oregon)
Wind River (Wyoming)

The Program will continually assess progress and may revise the schedule or add locations as capacity and resources allow, depending on the results achieved. Because effective planning and coordination take many months, the Program will begin the process to educate landowners and build cooperative working relationships with land staff. A Program representative will contact each Tribe at the initial stages of planning for implementation.

LEVERAGING RESOURCES FOR TRIBAL USE

In addition to the revised schedule, Interior also announced several policies, which reflect the Department's consideration of tribal comments, to better leverage Program resources, facilitate greater efficiencies, and increase opportunities to consolidate fractional interests, including:

- **Facilitating tribal and co-owner purchases.** In response to tribal feedback, the Program is evaluating its ability to facilitate tribal and co-owners purchases. This includes working to make certain information, such as mapping and land appraisals, more readily available. This may help tribes direct their own resources to reduce fractionation and manage tribal land. It may also facilitate individual landowner purchases. The Program would look to prioritize some appraisal and other acquisition efforts on tracts where tribes will use tribal funds to make purchase offers on interests, and next on tracts where individual owners will use their funds to make purchase offers on co-owner interests. The Program anticipates announcing more information on these matters in the next few months.
- **Maximizing use of appraisals.** Initially, the Program established an appraisal validity period of up to 9 months. Many tribal leaders urged Interior to consider a period of up to 12 months. The Program will now strive to utilize mass and project appraisals for up to 12 months, as long as appropriate market conditions exist when such appraisals are issued and thereafter. This approach seeks to maximize the time available to leverage the appraisals.
- **Streamlining agreements with tribes.** The Program revised the cooperative agreement process to clarify the funding parameters for tribes and to ensure that the

maximum amount of funding goes to land consolidation.

- **Revised acquisition approach.** To further maximize the remaining funding, the Program has developed an offer approach focused on acquiring: 1) ownership interests in all Mineral (M) tracts determined to have no current economically viable mineral value; and 2) interests that are less than 25 percent of the ownership in Surface (S) and Both (B) tracts. (Mineral tracts have ownership rights only to minerals or other resources below ground, while Surface tracts have ownership rights only to the land surface of tracts. Category ‘Both’ tracts have ownership rights to the land surface and minerals below ground.) Resources permitting, the Program will also look to give priority to those tracts or interests where tribes or individuals are committed to using their own funds to acquire fractional interests.
- **Extending purchase offer timing.** Previously, purchase offers were valid for 45 calendar days from the date of the offer cover letter. Tribes and landowners requested a longer review period. The Program has extended the due date from 45 days to 60 days to allow landowners more time to make an informed decision about their land.

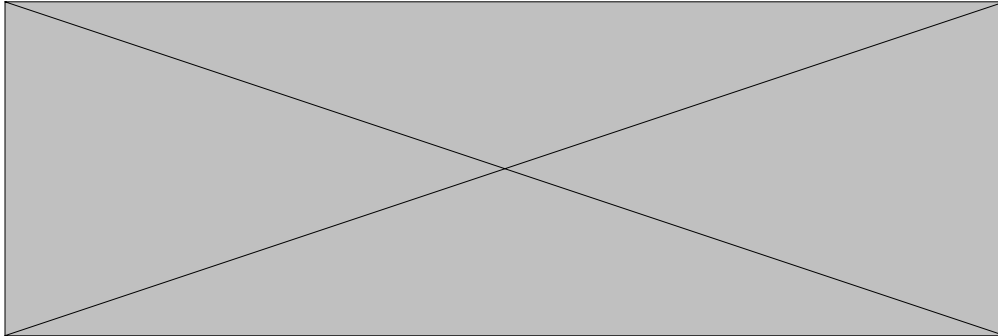
RESOURCES FOR LANDOWNERS

All interested landowners are encouraged to call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center (Call Center) at 888-678-6836 to indicate that they are interested in potentially selling their land and/or to update contact information. Registering as a willing seller does not commit a landowner to selling land, nor does it guarantee an offer will be extended; it merely identifies interest to help advance planning as additional locations are added to the schedule.

Landowners can also contact the Call Center or visit their local OST office to ask questions about their land or purchase offers, and learn about financial planning resources. More information and detailed frequently asked questions are available at <https://www.doi.gov/buybackprogram/FAQ> to help individuals make informed decisions about their land.

###

From: Williams, Timothy
Sent: 2017-08-01T10:26:20-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Zinke Applauds Nomination of Idaho's Ryan Nelson to Serve as Interior Solicitor
Received: 2017-08-01T10:27:05-04:00



Date: August 1, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Zinke Applauds Nomination of Idaho's Ryan Nelson to Serve as Interior Solicitor

WASHINGTON President Donald Trump announced yesterday the nomination of Ryan Nelson of Idaho to serve as the Solicitor for the Department of the Interior.

As Solicitor, Nelson will be the chief attorney for the United States Department of the Interior, principal legal adviser to the Secretary of the Interior, and will oversee 400 employees, including 300 attorneys. He will be assisted by several Deputy Solicitors, Associate Solicitors, and eight Regional Solicitors.

“Ryan Nelson is coming to the Department of the Interior with a strong background in natural resources policy and law, stretching many years in both the public and private sector,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke.** “Having a seasoned legal expert like Ryan, who is also a son of the West, will benefit the entire Department. I look forward to his speedy confirmation by the Senate.”

“I am honored to have been chosen by Secretary Zinke and nominated by President Trump to serve, and I look forward to the next steps in the Senate confirmation process,” **Ryan Nelson said.**

“Ryan Nelson’s background is a strong fit for the U.S. Department of Interior as he has worked on a wide-range of policy issues important to both Idaho and to the nation,” **said Senator Mike Crapo of Idaho.** “Combined with his strong legal background, Ryan will bring a point of view to Interior that is critically important given the agency’s jurisdiction over significant portions of the Western United States. I congratulate Ryan on his nomination and will work with my Senate

colleagues to advance his confirmation.”

“Ryan Nelson’s experience handling environmental and natural resources policy and his vast understanding of issues impacting Western states make him well-qualified for this position,” **said Senator Jim Risch of Idaho**, a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee overseeing this nomination. “I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to swiftly confirm his nomination.”

“I’ve known Ryan for over 20 years and have interacted with him at every stage of his impressive legal career,” **said Senator Mike Lee of Utah**, also a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee overseeing this nomination. “He will be an extraordinary Solicitor.”

“I am pleased to see an Idahoan nominated for such an important role at the Department of the Interior,” **said Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson**. “I congratulate Ryan Nelson on his nomination to lead Interior’s Office of the Solicitor and I look forward to his important work advising the Secretary on decisions which impact Idaho and the Western United States.”

Nelson has the unique experience of working at high levels in all branches of government, including positions in the Executive Office of the President, the Department of Justice, and the United States Senate Judiciary Committee.

Ron Tenpas, former Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, said: “I worked with Ryan when he served as a key legal advisor at the Department of Justice in the Environment and Natural Resources Division. He is a stellar attorney and consistently took on greater management responsibilities for the Division. During his tenure, he successfully argued more than a dozen important cases and oversaw more than 500 overall, including as Division counsel for several Supreme Court cases. He has a deep litigation and regulatory background, particularly on natural resources and environmental issues. I have full confidence that the Department of the Interior will be well served by Ryan's unique legal skill set.”

Nelson has been serving as General Counsel at Melaleuca, Inc., a billion-dollar consumer goods company based in Nelson’s hometown of Idaho Falls, Idaho. As a senior corporate management team member, Nelson oversees the Legal and Policy Departments and manages all corporate compliance, litigation, and regulatory issues.

Regarding Nelson’s nomination, **Melaleuca’s CEO, Frank VanderSloot said:** “Ryan has been a primary member of the management team and the chief legal advisor for Melaleuca, Inc. for nearly eight years. I have personally come to trust and rely on his legal mind and deep commitment to the law, as he has effectively advised the company over the years. During his service, the company has nearly tripled in size and Ryan has built a strong legal team and worked tirelessly to successfully guide the company’s growth. President Trump and Secretary Zinke have chosen the best possible candidate to lead the Department of the Interior’s legal team. Ryan is a true patriot and I fully support his personal sacrifice in serving this country that he loves so much.”

###

--

Tim Williams

Deputy Director External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

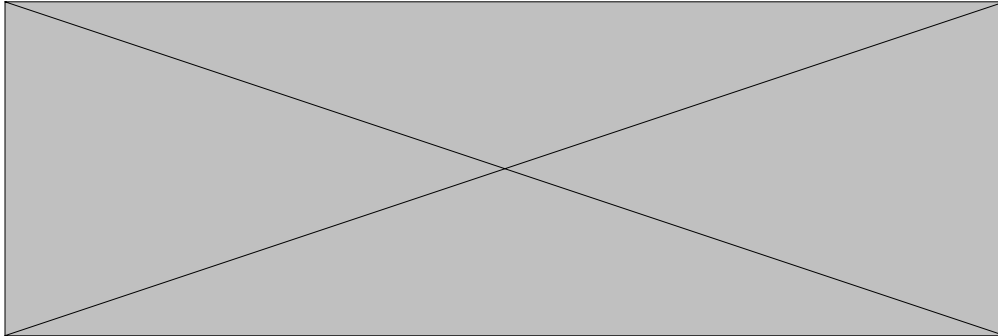
U.S. Department of the Interior

Desk: (202) 208 6015

Cell: (202) 706 4982

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-01T12:08:51-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Zinke Applauds Nomination of Idaho's Ryan Nelson to Serve as Interior Solicitor
Received: 2017-08-01T12:09:29-04:00



Date: August 1, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Zinke Applauds Nomination of Idaho's Ryan Nelson to Serve as Interior Solicitor

WASHINGTON President Donald Trump announced yesterday the nomination of Ryan Nelson of Idaho to serve as the Solicitor for the Department of the Interior.

As Solicitor, Nelson will be the chief attorney for the United States Department of the Interior, principal legal adviser to the Secretary of the Interior, and will oversee 400 employees, including 300 attorneys. He will be assisted by several Deputy Solicitors, Associate Solicitors, and eight Regional Solicitors.

“Ryan Nelson is coming to the Department of the Interior with a strong background in natural resources policy and law, stretching many years in both the public and private sector,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke.** “Having a seasoned legal expert like Ryan, who is also a son of the West, will benefit the entire Department. I look forward to his speedy confirmation by the Senate.”

“I am honored to have been chosen by Secretary Zinke and nominated by President Trump to serve, and I look forward to the next steps in the Senate confirmation process,” **Ryan Nelson said.**

“Ryan Nelson’s background is a strong fit for the U.S. Department of Interior as he has worked on a wide-range of policy issues important to both Idaho and to the nation,” **said Senator Mike Crapo of Idaho.** “Combined with his strong legal background, Ryan will bring a point of view to Interior that is critically important given the agency’s jurisdiction over significant portions of the Western United States. I congratulate Ryan on his nomination and will work with my Senate

colleagues to advance his confirmation.”

“Ryan Nelson’s experience handling environmental and natural resources policy and his vast understanding of issues impacting Western states make him well-qualified for this position,” **said Senator Jim Risch of Idaho**, a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee overseeing this nomination. “I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to swiftly confirm his nomination.”

“I’ve known Ryan for over 20 years and have interacted with him at every stage of his impressive legal career,” **said Senator Mike Lee of Utah**, also a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee overseeing this nomination. “He will be an extraordinary Solicitor.”

“I am pleased to see an Idahoan nominated for such an important role at the Department of the Interior,” **said Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson**. “I congratulate Ryan Nelson on his nomination to lead Interior’s Office of the Solicitor and I look forward to his important work advising the Secretary on decisions which impact Idaho and the Western United States.”

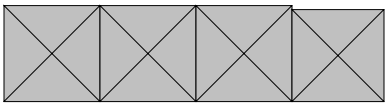
Nelson has the unique experience of working at high levels in all branches of government, including positions in the Executive Office of the President, the Department of Justice, and the United States Senate Judiciary Committee.

Ron Tenpas, former Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, said: “I worked with Ryan when he served as a key legal advisor at the Department of Justice in the Environment and Natural Resources Division. He is a stellar attorney and consistently took on greater management responsibilities for the Division. During his tenure, he successfully argued more than a dozen important cases and oversaw more than 500 overall, including as Division counsel for several Supreme Court cases. He has a deep litigation and regulatory background, particularly on natural resources and environmental issues. I have full confidence that the Department of the Interior will be well served by Ryan's unique legal skill set.”

Nelson has been serving as General Counsel at Melaleuca, Inc., a billion-dollar consumer goods company based in Nelson’s hometown of Idaho Falls, Idaho. As a senior corporate management team member, Nelson oversees the Legal and Policy Departments and manages all corporate compliance, litigation, and regulatory issues.

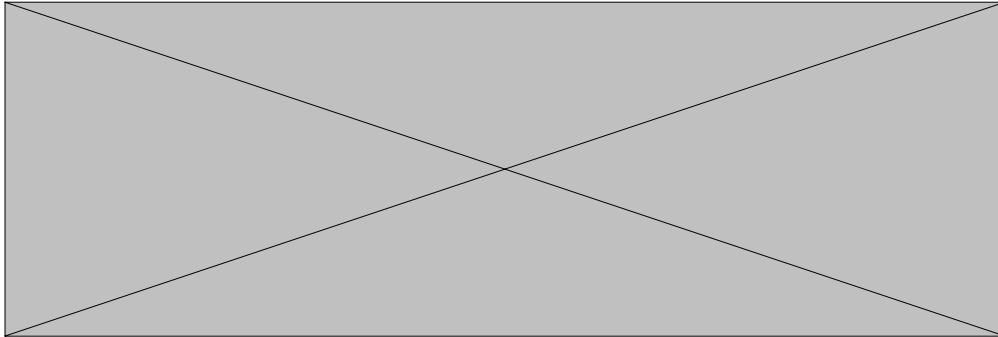
Regarding Nelson’s nomination, **Melaleuca’s CEO, Frank VanderSloot said:** “Ryan has been a primary member of the management team and the chief legal advisor for Melaleuca, Inc. for nearly eight years. I have personally come to trust and rely on his legal mind and deep commitment to the law, as he has effectively advised the company over the years. During his service, the company has nearly tripled in size and Ryan has built a strong legal team and worked tirelessly to successfully guide the company’s growth. President Trump and Secretary Zinke have chosen the best possible candidate to lead the Department of the Interior’s legal team. Ryan is a true patriot and I fully support his personal sacrifice in serving this country that he loves so much.”

###



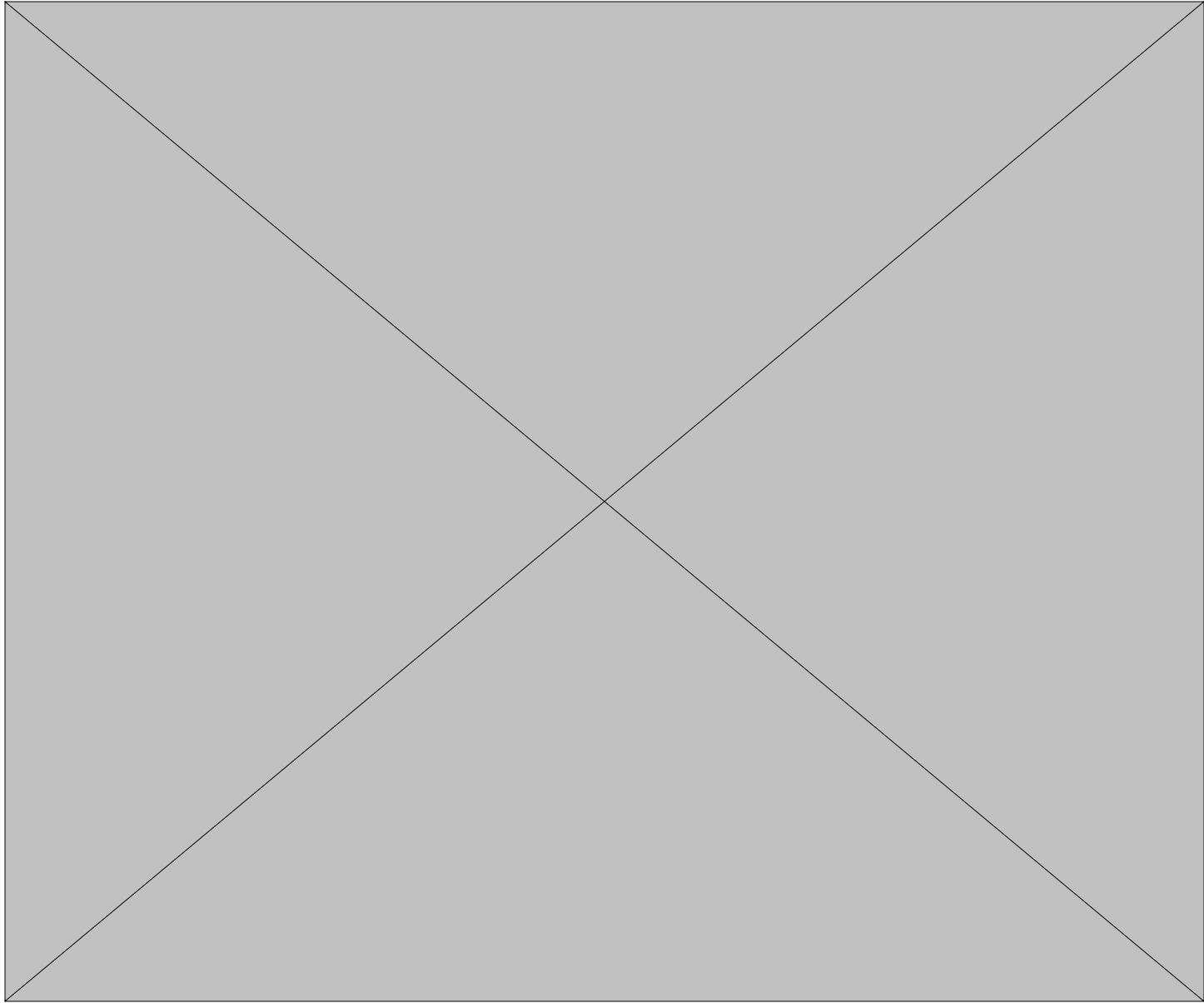
From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-01T20:27:11-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Swears In David Bernhardt as Deputy Secretary
Received: 2017-08-01T20:27:45-04:00

***** See link below for phenomenal pictures to use for articles, social media posts, and op eds relating to DOI *****



Date: August 1, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Swears In David Bernhardt as Deputy Secretary



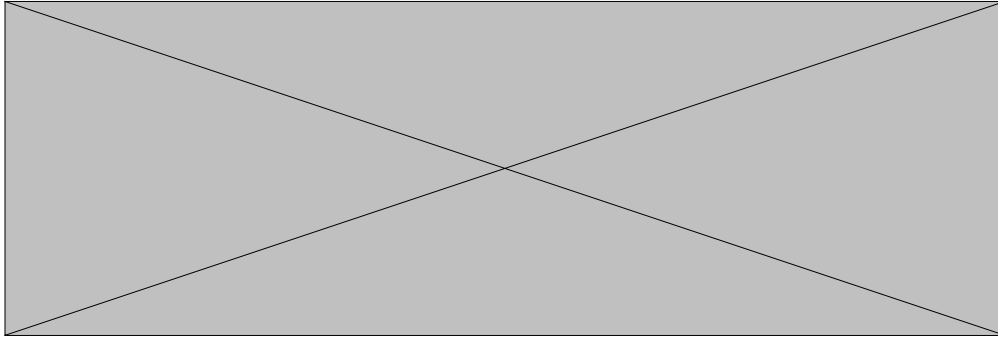
WASHINGTON This morning U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke swore in David Bernhardt as the Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior. It was witnessed by members of his family and DOI staff.

"I'm excited to have David Bernhardt here to help me lead the Department of the Interior," said Secretary Zinke. "His extensive experience serving under two secretaries of the Interior and his legal expertise is exactly what we need to make government work more efficiently and effectively and help us expand access to public lands while continuing to protect them for future generations."

For more photos, go to [Interior's Flickr page](#).

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-02T16:42:31-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Recommends No Modifications to Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument
Received: 2017-08-02T16:43:10-04:00



Date: August 2, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Recommends No Modifications to Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument

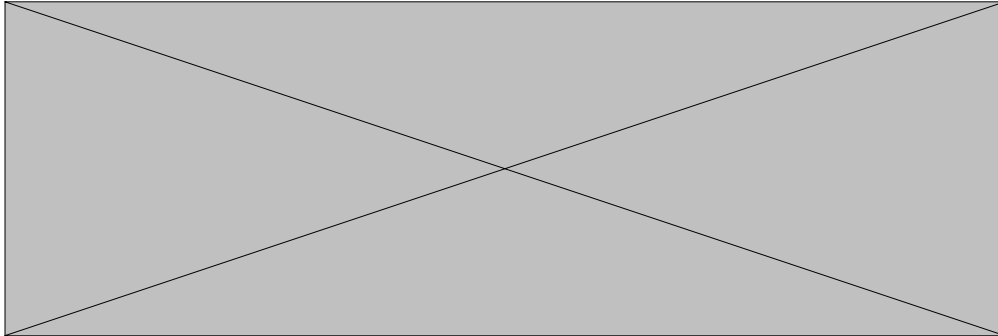
WASHINGTON Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced Montana's Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument is no longer under review and that he will recommend to the President that no modifications be made to the monument. The monument was under review in accordance with [President Donald J. Trump's April 26, 2017 executive order](#).

"Today I'm announcing the review of the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument has concluded and I am recommending to the President that no changes be made to the monument," **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. "The monument is one of the only free-flowing areas of the Missouri that remains as Lewis and Clark saw it more than 200 years ago."

Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument is located in central Montana, and was designated in 2001. The monument encompasses 378,000 acres, and is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-07T13:41:10-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke Statement on Sage Grouse Report
Received: 2017-08-07T13:41:50-04:00



Date: August 7, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke Statement on Sage Grouse Report

WASHINGTON Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke received a report from the Department of the Interior Sage-Grouse Review Team (DOI Team) regarding possible plan and policy modifications to complement state efforts to improve Greater Sage-Grouse conservation and economic development on public lands. The report is the final product required by Secretarial Order 3353 "Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States" issued June 7, 2017. The report, the cover letter from the Bureau of Land Management to the Secretary, and the memo from Secretary Zinke to Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt are available [here](#).

"I'm thankful to all of the DOI team members as well as the bureau staff and the state partners who put in the hard work and time to develop this report," said Secretary Zinke. "I've directed Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt to begin implementation of the recommendations and to direct the Bureau of Land Management, in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, and other offices in the Department, to immediately follow through on the short- and long-term recommendations."

In addition to officials from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Forest Service, representatives from 11 states that have sage-grouse habitat were involved in the creation of the document.

Secretarial Order 3353 aims to improve sage-grouse conservation and to strengthen communication and collaboration between states and the federal government. Together, the

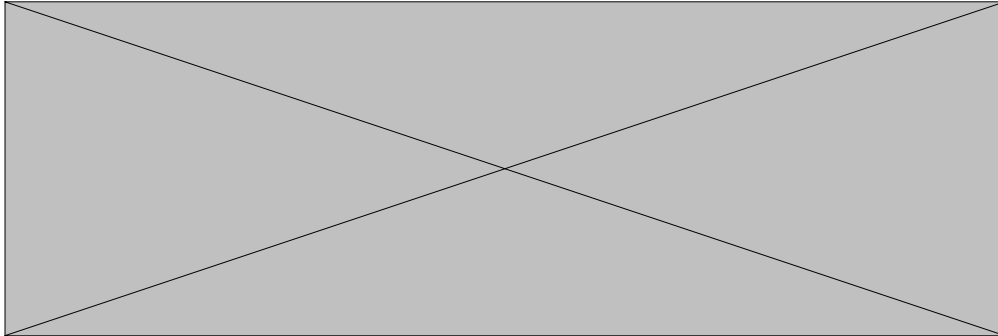
federal government and the states are working to conserve and protect sage-grouse and their habitat while also ensuring conservation efforts do not impede local economic opportunities.

In signing Secretarial Order 3353, Secretary Zinke established an internal review team that, among other things, evaluated both federal sage-grouse plans and state plans and programs to ensure they are complementary and explored possible plan modifications with local economic growth and job creation in mind.

###

https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/so3353_memo_coverletter_report_080717.pdf

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-07T16:39:27-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Repeals Defective Federal Mineral Valuation Rule
Received: 2017-08-07T16:40:05-04:00



Date: August 7, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Repeals Defective Federal Mineral Valuation Rule

Clears the way for developing clearer, more workable regulations for accurate accounting and valuation of oil, gas and coal from Federal and Indian leases

WASHINGTON To create more workable oil, gas and mineral valuation regulations and avoid costly litigation, the Department of the Interior today announced the repeal of the Consolidated Federal Oil and Gas and Federal and Indian Coal Valuation Reform Rule (Valuation Rule) which had created confusion and uncertainty regarding how companies report and pay royalties on energy and other mineral resources from federal onshore and offshore areas and American Indian lands.

The repeal of the Valuation Rule, published today in the *Federal Register* and effective on September 6, 2017, will provide certainty and clarity to the regulated community by continuing to require compliance with lawful and well-known oil, gas, and coal regulations in force for more than a decade. These regulations are easy to understand and provide certainty to industry and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) that correct payment has been made.

“Repealing the Valuation Rule provides a clean slate to create workable valuation regulations,” said **Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “We are committed to working closely with stakeholders and the newly chartered Royalty Policy Committee to explore options for future rulemakings and to avoid the structural defects that were found in the prior rule. The Department and the Office of Natural Resources Revenue remain committed to collecting every dollar due. These are taxpayer and American Indian assets, and the public and American Indians deserve an accurate accounting and valuation.”

“The United States is a safer and more sustainable nation when we rely on our own natural resource development,” **Secretary Zinke** emphasized. “Repealing the Valuation Rule restores our economic freedom by ensuring our energy independence. The increased costs associated with the Valuation Rule had the potential to decrease exploration and production on Federal lands, both onshore and offshore, making us rely more and more on foreign imports of oil and gas.”

“I support Interior’s decision to repeal this rule and provide greater certainty to companies seeking to produce our valuable domestic resources, from Alaska to the Atlantic,” **Senator Lisa Murkowski** (R-Alaska) said. “While the federal government will continue to collect its fair share of revenues from responsible development, the repeal of this rule will help prevent negative impacts to exploration and production that would put our energy dominance at stake.”

“This rescindment is another important step by the Trump administration to position Interior as a facilitator of responsible energy development,” said House Natural Resources Committee **Chairman Rob Bishop** (R-UT). “I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke on ONRR policies and many other areas to spur more investment in Federal and Indian lands, foster greater regulatory certainty and eliminate or address pre-existing policies that work against these goals.”

“The Obama Administration's changes to royalties for coal, oil, and natural gas was just one in a series of barriers it put up to hold back energy production on federal lands,” said **Congressional Coal Caucus Chairman David McKinley**, P.E. (R-WV). “Returning to the more reasonable previous standards paves the way for further investment and development of energy resources. I applaud Secretary Zinke’s commitment to supporting American energy dominance.”

“This Obama-era rule was another misguided attack on affordable energy that would have caused significant harm to tribal, rural and Western economies,” said **Congressional Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar** (AZ-04). “This burdensome new regulation would have bankrupt small businesses, discouraged responsible energy production and hit the pocketbooks of hard-working American families. Furthermore, the rule would have imposed unnecessary and costly new reporting requirements that would have siphoned important revenues from local community coffers and the U.S. Treasury, creating a problem where there wasn’t one and having the opposite effect of what the regulation intended. I applaud Secretary Zinke’s leadership and am grateful he took action to provide certainty for job creators and to protect good-paying careers that are the backbone of many of our communities.”

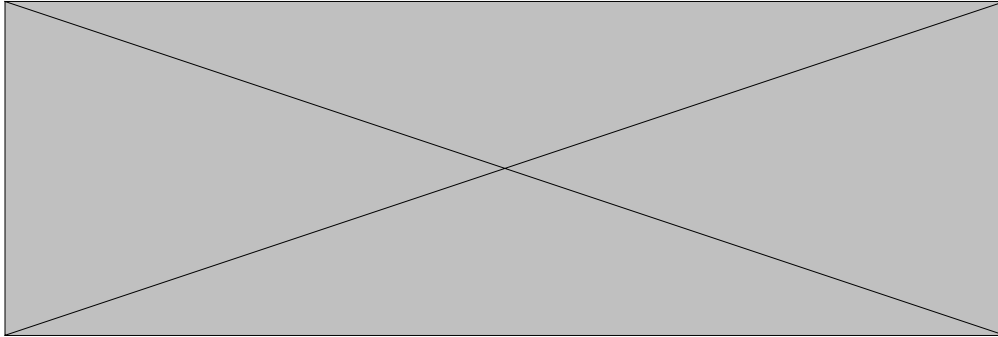
Developed by ONNR, the stated intent of the Valuation Rule was to offer greater simplicity, certainty, clarity and consistency in product valuation and reporting for federal and Indian mineral lessees. However, industry stakeholders and trade associations filed three lawsuits challenging the rule. The petitioners also sent a joint letter to the ONRR Director asserting that it would be impossible for them to comply with the rule’s new royalty reporting and payment requirements by the deadline, exposing non-compliant lessees to significant civil penalties. In response to these and other concerns lessees expressed in writing and workshops, ONRR identified several areas in the rule warranting reconsideration to meet policy and implementation objectives. ONRR stayed the Valuation Rule on February 27, 2017 via Federal Register Notice and published an April 4, 2017 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to repeal the rule.

Because provisions in the Valuation Rule increased the regulatory burden on the nation's energy production, repealing the rule will reduce costs to oil, gas, and coal companies that would otherwise be passed to the American consumer. This greater efficiency for payors will reduce industry cost of compliance and ONRR's cost to ensure industry compliance, consistent with the Secretary's responsibility to the public, to good governance and to trust responsibilities to American Indian mineral owners to appropriately value production.

Members of the oil, gas, and coal industries also expressed support for parts of the Valuation Rule, as have members of environmental groups and the general public. The Department intends to further evaluate changes that may be warranted to the long-established oil, gas and coal regulations through the Royalty Policy Committee and publicly-vetted rulemaking, ensuring that valuation and revenue collection for the nation's mineral and hydrocarbon resources remain transparent and consistent, while the taxpayers receive every dollar due from resources on their public lands and offshore areas. The Royalty Policy Committee is chaired by Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy, and the Executive Director is James Schindler.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-09T16:10:49-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Expands Hunting and Fishing Opportunities at 10 National Wildlife Refuges
Received: 2017-08-09T16:11:33-04:00



Date: August 9, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Expands Hunting and Fishing Opportunities at 10 National Wildlife Refuges

(WASHINGTON) In his latest effort to increase access to hunting and fishing on public lands and waters, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced a proposal to open or expand opportunities at 10 [national wildlife refuges](#). If finalized, this would bring the number of refuges where the public may hunt up to 373, and up to 312 where fishing would be permitted.

“I grew up in the mountains of northwest Montana, where I spent my time hunting and fishing on our shared public lands. I was lucky to take my boys out on the same land that my dad and granddad took me,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “As the steward of our public lands, one of my top priorities is to open up access wherever possible for hunting and fishing so that more families have the opportunity to pass down the heritage. The last thing I want to see is hunting and fishing become elite sports. These ten refuges will provide incredible opportunities for sportsmen and anglers across the country to access the land and connect with the wildlife.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages hunting and fishing programs to ensure sustainable wildlife populations while also offering other traditional wildlife-dependent recreation on public lands, such as wildlife watching and photography. The unparalleled network of 566 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts means that there is a national wildlife refuge within an hour’s drive of most major metropolitan areas.

“With Secretary Zinke's leadership, the team at the Fish and Wildlife Service is happy to expand hunting and fishing opportunities where they are compatible with wildlife management goals,” **said USFWS Acting Director Greg Sheehan**. “Sportsmen and anglers play a huge role in the

conservation of wildlife and their habitat, so it only makes sense that refuges provide opportunities for folks to get outside to hunt and fish. Refuges provide all Americans with places to hunt, fish, observe the natural world firsthand and experience the great outdoors.”

Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities contributed more than \$144.7 billion in economic activity across the United States according to the USFWS National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, published every five years. More than 90 million Americans, or 41 percent of the United States’ population 16 and older, pursue wildlife-related recreation.

Hunting and/or fishing will expand or be opened on the following refuges:

Georgia and South Carolina

- Savannah River National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting and sport fishing.

Indiana

- Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting and sport fishing. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting and sport fishing.

Minnesota

- Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting and sport fishing.

North Dakota

- Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge: Open moose hunting for the first time. The refuge is already open to upland game and other big game hunting.
- Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge: Open moose and turkey hunting for the first time. Expand upland game and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to upland game hunting, other big game hunting and sport fishing.

Oklahoma

- Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge: Expand upland game and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting and sport fishing.

Oregon

- Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting.
- Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge: Open sport fishing for the first time. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting.

Wisconsin

- Horicon National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting and upland game and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting and sport fishing.
- Fox River National Wildlife Refuge: Expand big game hunting. The refuge is already open to big game hunting.

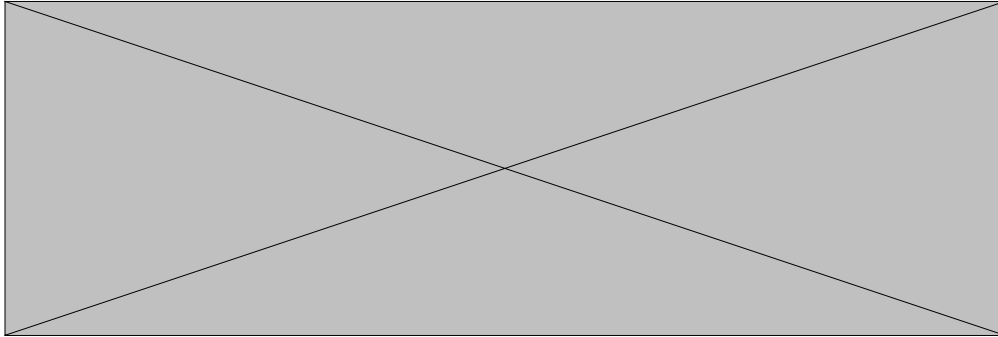
The USFWS is seeking comments from the public for 30 days regarding information pertaining to the proposed rule. For additional information, go to www.regulations.gov, docket no. FWS-HQ-NWRS-2017-0005. The proposed rule will publish in the *Federal Register* on August 10, 2017. Comments must be received by September 8, 2017.

More than 50 million Americans visit refuges every year. National wildlife refuges provide vital habitat for thousands of species and access to world-class recreation, from fishing, hunting and boating to nature watching, photography and environmental education. In doing so, they support regional economies to the tune of \$2.4 billion dollars per year and support more than 35,000 jobs.

Under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, the Service permits hunting and fishing along with four other types of wildlife-dependent recreation, including wildlife photography, environmental education, wildlife observation and interpretation, when they are compatible with an individual refuge's purpose and mission. Hunting, within specified limits, is currently permitted on 336 wildlife refuges and 36 wetland management districts. Fishing is currently permitted on 276 wildlife refuges and 33 wetland management districts.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-09T16:10:49-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Expands Hunting and Fishing Opportunities at 10 National Wildlife Refuges
Received: 2017-08-09T16:11:28-04:00



Date: August 9, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Expands Hunting and Fishing Opportunities at 10 National Wildlife Refuges

(WASHINGTON) In his latest effort to increase access to hunting and fishing on public lands and waters, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced a proposal to open or expand opportunities at 10 [national wildlife refuges](#). If finalized, this would bring the number of refuges where the public may hunt up to 373, and up to 312 where fishing would be permitted.

“I grew up in the mountains of northwest Montana, where I spent my time hunting and fishing on our shared public lands. I was lucky to take my boys out on the same land that my dad and granddad took me,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “As the steward of our public lands, one of my top priorities is to open up access wherever possible for hunting and fishing so that more families have the opportunity to pass down the heritage. The last thing I want to see is hunting and fishing become elite sports. These ten refuges will provide incredible opportunities for sportsmen and anglers across the country to access the land and connect with the wildlife.”

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages hunting and fishing programs to ensure sustainable wildlife populations while also offering other traditional wildlife-dependent recreation on public lands, such as wildlife watching and photography. The unparalleled network of 566 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts means that there is a national wildlife refuge within an hour’s drive of most major metropolitan areas.

“With Secretary Zinke's leadership, the team at the Fish and Wildlife Service is happy to expand hunting and fishing opportunities where they are compatible with wildlife management goals,” **said USFWS Acting Director Greg Sheehan**. “Sportsmen and anglers play a huge role in the

conservation of wildlife and their habitat, so it only makes sense that refuges provide opportunities for folks to get outside to hunt and fish. Refuges provide all Americans with places to hunt, fish, observe the natural world firsthand and experience the great outdoors.”

Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities contributed more than \$144.7 billion in economic activity across the United States according to the USFWS National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, published every five years. More than 90 million Americans, or 41 percent of the United States’ population 16 and older, pursue wildlife-related recreation.

Hunting and/or fishing will expand or be opened on the following refuges:

Georgia and South Carolina

- Savannah River National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting and sport fishing.

Indiana

- Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting and sport fishing. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting and sport fishing.

Minnesota

- Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting and sport fishing.

North Dakota

- Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge: Open moose hunting for the first time. The refuge is already open to upland game and other big game hunting.
- Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge: Open moose and turkey hunting for the first time. Expand upland game and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to upland game hunting, other big game hunting and sport fishing.

Oklahoma

- Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge: Expand upland game and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting and sport fishing.

Oregon

- Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting.
- Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge: Open sport fishing for the first time. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting.

Wisconsin

- Horicon National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting and upland game and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game and big game hunting and sport fishing.
- Fox River National Wildlife Refuge: Expand big game hunting. The refuge is already open to big game hunting.

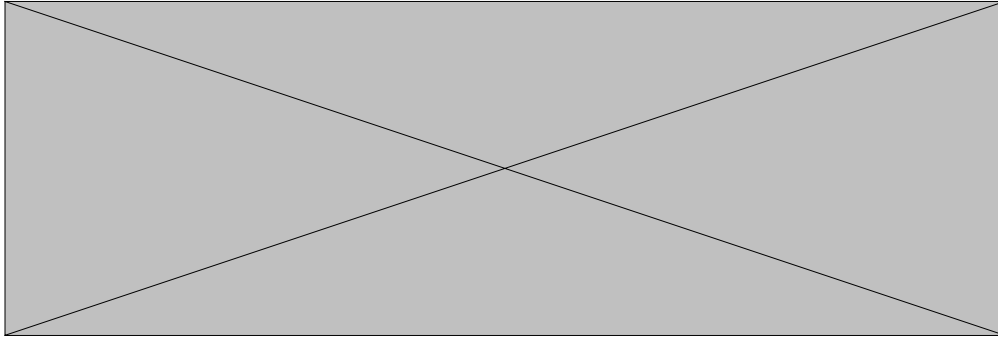
The USFWS is seeking comments from the public for 30 days regarding information pertaining to the proposed rule. For additional information, go to www.regulations.gov, docket no. FWS-HQ-NWRS-2017-0005. The proposed rule will publish in the *Federal Register* on August 10, 2017. Comments must be received by September 8, 2017.

More than 50 million Americans visit refuges every year. National wildlife refuges provide vital habitat for thousands of species and access to world-class recreation, from fishing, hunting and boating to nature watching, photography and environmental education. In doing so, they support regional economies to the tune of \$2.4 billion dollars per year and support more than 35,000 jobs.

Under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, the Service permits hunting and fishing along with four other types of wildlife-dependent recreation, including wildlife photography, environmental education, wildlife observation and interpretation, when they are compatible with an individual refuge's purpose and mission. Hunting, within specified limits, is currently permitted on 336 wildlife refuges and 36 wetland management districts. Fishing is currently permitted on 276 wildlife refuges and 33 wetland management districts.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-09T17:38:05-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Supports Acceptance of 3,595 Acres of Wilderness for Sportsmen's Access to Sabinoso Wilderness Area in New Mexico
Received: 2017-08-09T17:44:42-04:00



Date: August 9, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Supports Acceptance of 3,595 Acres of Wilderness for Sportsmen's Access to Sabinoso Wilderness Area in New Mexico

TV Use: B-roll of the Secretary at Sabinoso can be downloaded [here](#).

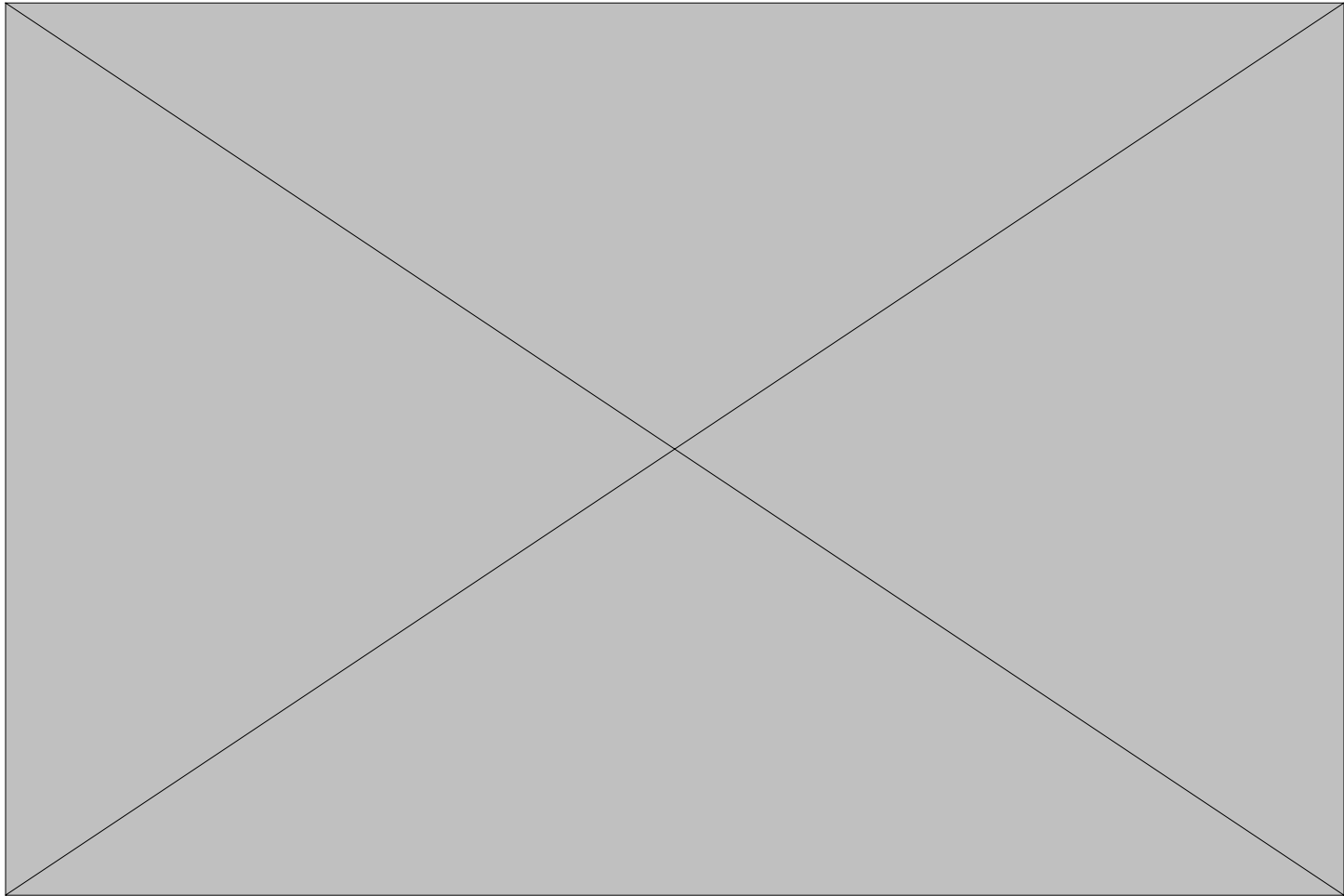
WASHINGTON Following a trip to New Mexico, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced he and the Department - through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - intend to finalize the process to consider whether to accept the donation of 3,595 acres (formerly known as the Rimrock Rose Ranch) that are adjacent to Sabinoso Wilderness to be included as part of the wilderness.

If approved, the donated land will provide public access to the 16,000-acre Sabinoso Wilderness, which is wholly surrounded by non-federal land. By adding the donated land, the Sabinoso will connect with neighboring BLM land and make the Sabinoso accessible to the public for the first time ever.

"I'm happy to announce today the Department intends to finalize the process to consider whether to accept 3,595 acres to make the Sabinoso Wilderness area accessible to hunters and all members of the public for the first time ever," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Expanding access to hunting, fishing, and recreation on federal lands is one of my top priorities as Secretary. I originally had concerns about adding more wilderness-designated area, however after hiking and riding the land it was clear that access would only be improved if the Department accepted the land and maintained the existing roadways. Thanks to the donation of a private organization, we continue to move toward delivering this nonpartisan win for sportsmen and the community."

The Sabinoso Wilderness is some of the most pristine elk habitat in the country. Sportsmen from all over the world have expressed interest in gaining access to the area.

"The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation congratulates Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, New Mexico Senators Heinrich and Udall, the Wilderness Land Trust and the many sportsmen and women who helped make this incredibly important access project happen," **said David Allen, President and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.** "The Interior Department's acceptance of the 3,600 acre Rimrock Rose Ranch will provide public access to the 16,000 acre Sabinoso Wilderness and its premier habitat for elk, mule deer and other wildlife and just in time for hunting season!"



"On behalf the NRA's five-million members, I want to thank Secretary Zinke for his leadership in opening access to the Sabinoso Wilderness Area for hunters and sportsmen," **said Chris W. Cox, Executive Director of the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action.** "Secretary Zinke continues to champion the rights of America's hunters and sportsmen by increasing access to our nation's public lands."

Secretary Zinke and New Mexico Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich toured the Sabinoso by horseback and hike on Saturday, July 29. Photos are available [here](#).

"Sabinoso is the only American wilderness without public access, so I am heartened that Secretary Zinke is moving to finalize an agreement with the Wilderness Land Trust that will allow hikers, sportsmen and others to enjoy this pristine New Mexico landscape. This collaboration is a testament to how beautiful this land is and the tremendous opportunity it holds for sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts and our state's growing recreation economy," **said U.S. Senator Tom Udall.** "Enabling access to this wilderness is something that many New Mexicans have worked toward for years, and while there are some details to work out to ensure the property is managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act, I want to thank Secretary Zinke for coming to New Mexico to see this stunning land for himself and for moving quickly to accept the donation of the Rimrock Rose Ranch property."

"The Sabinoso is the only legally inaccessible wilderness area in the entire nation. Surrounded by private land and without a legal road or trail to get there, the public has effectively been locked out of this stunning landscape that we all own. By accepting this land donation as part of the wilderness, the Department of Interior will finally unlock the Sabinoso to the public," **said U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich.** "This is a major gain for New Mexico and would not be possible without the generosity of the Wilderness Land Trust and the dedication of the local community and sportsmen who have championed this effort for many years. I am grateful that Secretary Zinke visited our state and recognizes just how special the Sabinoso truly is. Traditions like hunting, hiking, and fishing are among the pillars of Western culture and a thriving outdoor recreation economy. Through this collaborative effort to create public access to the Sabinoso we will ensure that outdoor enthusiasts from near and far can finally experience all that this special landscape has to offer and that it will be protected for our children and all future generations."

The area offers exceptional opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, backcountry camping, and hunting. Public interest in accessing the wilderness for hunting and fishing has been significant. The donated lands include a large portion of Cañon Largo, a scenic canyon that would also become legally accessible to the public for the first time through donation.

The BLM will now continue its decision-making process and prepare a number of realty actions that are expected to take three-to-four months to complete.

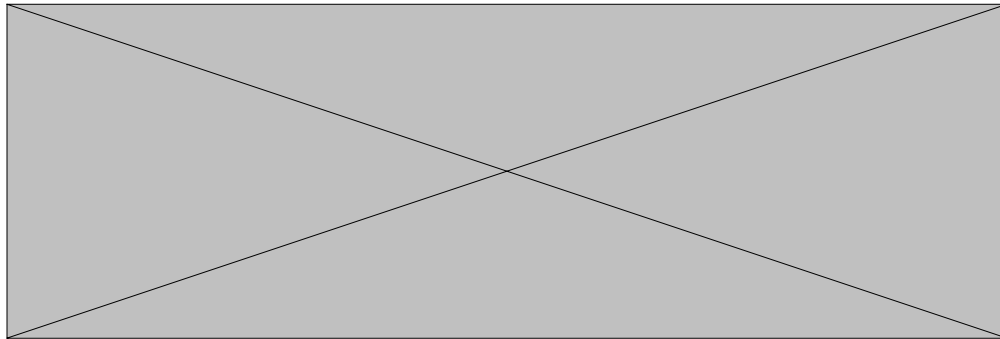
###

.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-09T20:30:32-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Jackpot
Received: 2017-08-09T21:27:06-04:00

<https://www.indianz.com/News/2017/08/04/crowtribevaluationrule.pdf>

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-15T15:58:38-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Deputy Secretary Bernhardt Announces More Than \$52 Million in Federal Funding To Bolster Tribal, State Wildlife Conservation Projects: TEST
Received: 2017-08-15T15:59:32-04:00



Date: August 15, 2017

Contact: Laury_parramore@fws.gov, Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Deputy Secretary Bernhardt Announces More Than \$52 Million in Federal Funding To Bolster Tribal, State Wildlife Conservation Projects

WASHINGTON U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt announced more than \$52 million in funding to Native American tribes and state wildlife agencies through the Tribal Wildlife Grant (TWG) program and the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program. The funds, which are provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, give support for a diverse array of species and habitats across the country.

Under the SWG program, more than \$48 million will support species and habitats listed in approved state wildlife action plans. All 50 state and U.S. territorial wildlife agencies have these plans, which proactively protect species in greatest conservation need. Projects funded through SWG involve research, monitoring, wildlife surveys, species and habitat management and other activities.

More than \$4 million in TWG funds to Native American and Alaska Native tribes in 14 states will support fish and wildlife conservation and key partnerships. The awards will benefit 25 projects that encompass a wide range of wildlife and habitats, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished.

“The Trump Administration is working hard with states and local communities to find solutions that are driven at the local level, rather than in Washington, D.C. As a hunter, I know the work of

state wildlife agencies is absolutely critical to wildlife conservation in the United States,” said Deputy Secretary Bernhardt. “We’re thrilled to be able to collaborate with them, their local communities, and other partners to ensure important fish, wildlife, habitat and cultural needs are met. Tribal and state wildlife grants are foundational to protecting our nation’s wildlife legacy, including game and non-game species.”

Examples of state projects funded with SWG grants include:

North Dakota -- Last year, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department completed a project with SWG funding that restored more than 200 acres of grassland habitat within a priority waterfowl production area. The project included seeding of a diverse mix of native grasses on existing croplands for a variety of tall-grass prairie bird species and other birds valued for public recreation. In addition to habitat creation, the state agency also used SWG funds with matching state dollars for monitoring vegetation species composition and structure and for conducting breeding bird surveys.

Georgia -- SWG awards have funded the Georgia Department of Natural Resources’ efforts to conserve the sicklefin redhorse sucker, which was listed by the Service as a candidate species for Endangered Species Act protection in 2005. As a result of voluntary conservation efforts carried out by Georgia and North Carolina state agencies and partners funded in large part through SWG along with other state monies the Service determined in 2016 that listing the sicklefin redhorse sucker as an endangered or threatened species is not warranted.

Wyoming -- The Wyoming Game and Fish Department used SWG funds to assess the influence of cheat grass, an invasive plant, on small mammals and other species of greatest conservation need. The study, conducted in partnership with researchers at the University of Wyoming, found it is likely the increased risk small mammals perceive in cheat grass habitats reflects actual risk, with negative consequences for these species. This information helps biologists and land managers understand and address the effects of habitat alteration associated with cheat grass on sensitive species.

SWG funds are administered by the Service’s Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) program and are allocated to states and territories according to a congressionally mandated formula based on population and geographic area. Grant funds must be used to address conservation needs, such as research, wildlife surveys, species and habitat management, and monitoring identified within state wildlife action plans. The funds may also be used to update, revise or modify a state’s plan. Click [here](#) for the complete list of 2017 SWG apportionments. Learn more about SWG program accomplishments [here](#).

The wide variation in the types of projects funded with TWG dollars is highlighted by this year’s awards: In Oklahoma, the Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma will receive \$155,000 to support a bat conservation project, while in New Mexico, the Pueblo of Tesuque will receive nearly \$200,000 for its Mule Deer Management and Habitat Enhancement Program. In Washington, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians will receive nearly \$200,000 for habitat enhancement and population monitoring of the South Rainier elk herd. In North Carolina, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians will receive \$200,000 to support implementation of their wildlife action plan. In Maine, the Penobscot Indian Nation will receive \$200,000 to support Atlantic salmon and other fisheries

management on tribal trust lands. A complete list of the 2017 Tribal Wildlife Grant awards can be found [here](#).

TWG funds are provided exclusively to fund wildlife conservation by federally recognized Native American tribal governments, and are made possible under the Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2002 through the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program. Proposals for the 2018 grant cycle are due Sept. 1, 2017.

For additional information about Native American conservation projects and the Tribal Wildlife Grants application process, visit

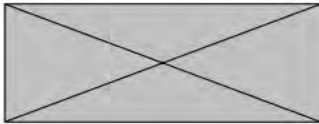
<http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/grants.html> or <http://www.grants.gov/>.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-15T16:23:05-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: BOEM MEDIA ADVISORY: Conference call following Aug. 16 lease sale - Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil & Gas Lease Sale 249
Received: 2017-08-15T16:23:43-04:00

Detailed information regarding the press release below is available at this link:

https://www.boem.gov/sale-249/?utm_source=LS249+Media+Advisory&utm_campaign=LS249+Advisory&utm_medium=email



Contact:
john.filostrat@boem.gov
504-731-7815

BOEM to hold media conference call following Aug. 16 lease sale

WHO: Officials with the Department of the Interior. **Credentialed media are invited to call.**

WHAT: Press conference call to announce results of Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil & Gas Lease Sale 249, scheduled for August 16, 2017.

WHEN: Sale 249 begins at 9 a.m. Central Time and the conference call will begin at 10:30 a.m. Central Time Wednesday, Aug. 16.

HOW: Credentialed news media only are invited to participate in the teleconference following the bid reading by calling **1-888-790-1808** and providing the passcode: Gulf Sale.

BACKGROUND

On August 16, BOEM will hold Gulf of Mexico OCS Oil & Gas Lease Sale 249. BOEM

accepted sealed bids until today (August 15) at 10 a.m. Central Time. During the bidding period, 23 companies submitted 99 bids on 90 blocks for Sale 249. A map showing the location of tracts receiving bids will be available on the BOEM website at: <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-249/> at 7:00 AM Central Time tomorrow.

Bid reading will be made public via a live webstream, available at www.boem.gov. The webstream will come online and be accessible beginning at 8:30 a.m. Central Time; the bid reading will begin at 9 a.m. Central Time. Broadcasting the bid reading in this manner allows bid information to reach a broad audience and saves the taxpayer money.

Totals for the sale will be announced as soon as the bids are tallied at the end of the webstream. The media call will follow at 10:30 a.m., and a press release and final sale statistics will be released and posted to BOEM's website the same day.

Evaluation of bids for fair market value will take place over the next 90 days. Lease awards will be posted to BOEM's website as they are completed. A Note to Stakeholders will announce final sales statistics upon completion of evaluations.

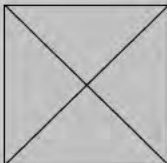
MORE INFORMATION

Chronology of LS249 development and supporting documents: www.boem.gov/sale-249
Press release announcing Final Notice of Sale:
<https://www.boem.gov/press07132017/>

- BOEM -

About the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) promotes economic development, energy independence, and environmental protection through responsible, science-based management of offshore conventional and renewable energy, and marine minerals development.



For More Information:

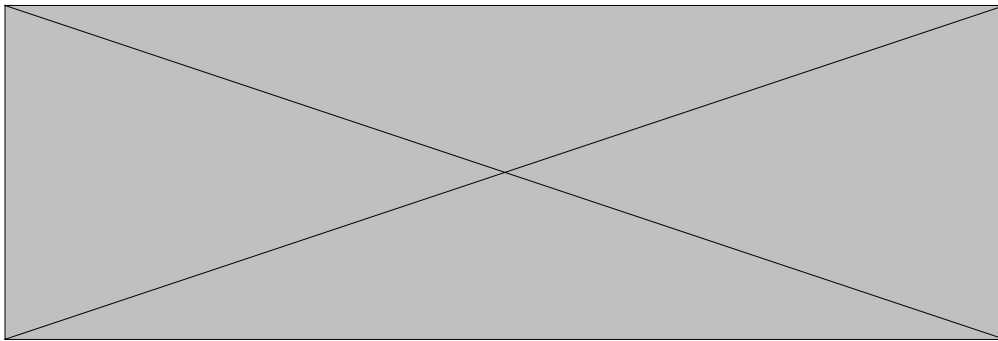
John Filostrat
Office of Public Affairs
(504) 731-7815
(504) 284-8605

Please visit us at

www.BOEM.gov

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-16T19:45:18-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Gulf of Mexico Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale Yields \$121 Million in High Bids on 508,096 Acres
Received: 2017-08-16T19:45:58-04:00

I know that this press release contains a controversial topic in the American energy industry, yet please ***don't hesitate*** to call or email me if there is more information I can provide. I'd also be more than happy to connect you with DOI staff in other relating departments so to provide further info to you or a briefing, relating to this topic.



Date: August 16, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
John Filostrat (BOEM) 504-731-7815
john.filostrat@boem.gov

Gulf of Mexico Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease Sale Yields \$121 Million in High Bids on 508,096 Acres

*Underscores Secretary Zinke's initiatives to expand energy development,
streamline regulations, enhance cooperation with industry and local governments*

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced that the region-wide Gulf of Mexico lease sale generated \$121,143,055 in high bids for 90 tracts covering 508,096 acres in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. A total of 27 companies participated in the sale, submitting 99 bids totaling \$137,006,181. The sale offered the largest amount of acreage in the history of the federal offshore program in the Gulf, including parcels offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

“The path to American energy dominance starts in the Gulf, and the hard work of rig and platform workers, support staff onshore, and the industries that support them cannot go unnoticed,” **said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.** “Today’s results will help secure their jobs and create more good paying jobs while generating \$121 million in revenue to fund everything from conservation to infrastructure.”

Lease Sale 249, livestreamed from New Orleans, is the first offshore sale under the National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022. Under this program, nine additional region-wide lease sales that combine all three planning areas are scheduled for the Gulf, where resource potential and industry interest are high, and oil and gas infrastructure is well established.

On June 29, President Donald J. Trump and Secretary Zinke announced a public comment period for a new National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for years 2019-2024. The comment period is the first step in executing the new program. The 2017-2022 Program, which begins with the lease sale held today, will continue to be executed until the new National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program is complete.

Lease Sale 249 offered approximately 76 million acres offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida for oil and gas exploration and development. It included 14,220 unleased blocks, located from three to 231 miles offshore, in the Gulf's Western, Central and Eastern planning areas in water depths ranging from nine to more than 11,115 feet (three to 3,400 meters). Excluded from the lease sale are blocks subject to the Congressional moratorium established by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap; and whole blocks and partial blocks within the current boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

"Today's lease sale is another important step in this Administration's strategy of responsible resource development and energy dominance," **said Vincent DeVito, Counselor for Energy Policy at Interior**. "Investors response reflects our work of making the Department of the Interior a better business partner and optimism in the results of this Administration."

The lease sale terms include stipulations to protect biologically sensitive resources, mitigate potential adverse effects on protected species, and avoid potential conflicts associated with oil and gas development in the region.

Additionally, BOEM has included appropriate fiscal terms that take into account market conditions and ensure taxpayers receive a fair return for use of the OCS. These terms include a 12.5 percent royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters of water depth, and a royalty rate of 18.75 percent for all other leases issued pursuant to the sale. The 12.5 percent royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters is lower than the proposed 18.75 percent royalty rate for shallow water leases that BOEM published in the Proposed Notice of Sale.

"Through regulatory streamlining, expanded offshore and onshore opportunities and great cooperation with our stakeholders, we expect to encourage competition while continuing to receive a fair and equitable return on oil and gas resources," **said Katharine MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management**.

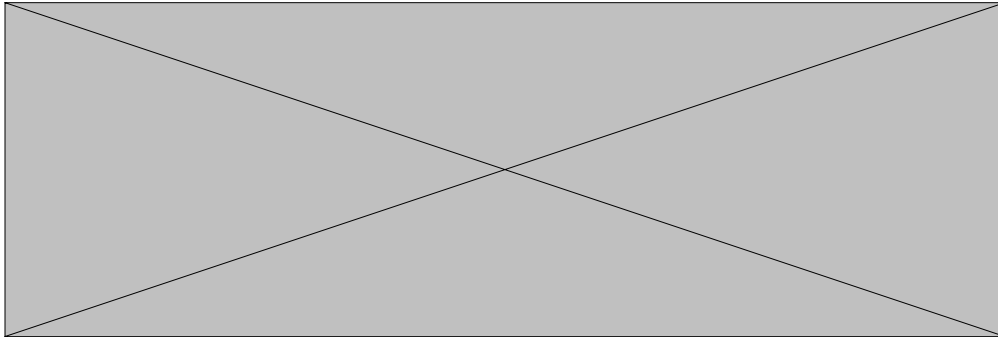
The estimated amount of resources projected to be developed as a result of the region-wide lease sale ranges from approximately 0.21 to 1.12 billion barrels of oil and 0.55 to 4.42 trillion cubic feet of gas. Most of the activity (up to 83% of future production) of the proposed lease sale is expected to occur in the Central Planning Area.

As of August 1, 2017, 15.9 million acres on the U.S. OCS are under lease for oil and gas development (2994 active leases) and 4.3 million of those acres (870 leases) are producing oil and natural gas. More than 97 percent of these leases are in the Gulf of Mexico; about 3 percent are on the OCS off California and Alaska.

All terms and conditions for Gulf of Mexico Region-wide Sale 249 were detailed in the Final Notice of Sale (FNOS) information package and available at: <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-249/>.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-17T15:18:23-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Deputy Secretary Bernhardt Announces \$25.6 Million in Historic Preservation Grants to States and to Tribes
Received: 2017-08-17T15:19:05-04:00



Date: August 17, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Deputy Secretary Bernhardt Announces \$25.6 Million in Historic Preservation Grants to States and Tribes
Offshore Drilling Funds Directed to Help Protect U.S. and Tribal Historic Places, Culture, and Traditions

WASHINGTON U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt with the National Park Service today announced the distribution of an additional \$21 million in historic preservation grants to every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, the U.S. territories, and partnering nations as well as \$4.6 million for historic preservation grants to 169 Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. This funding, along with \$32.6 million awarded earlier this year under a continuing resolution, represents a total of \$58 million that the National Park Service has invested in the preservation efforts of states and tribes this year.

"These grants highlight the Department's and the National Park Service's commitment to preserving U.S. and tribal history and heritage," Deputy Secretary Bernhardt said. "Through valuable partnerships, we are able to help communities and tribes protect the diverse historic places, culture, and traditions unique to our country for future generations."

Administered by the National Park Service, these funds are appropriated annually by Congress from the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). The HPF funds preservation programs at State Historic Preservation Offices and ensures local involvement by passing 10% of state funding through competitive subgrants to Certified Local Governments. All funding to the states and the District of Columbia requires a 40% non-federal match, which leverages state, local, and private dollars to do even more with the federal HPF investment. Tribal grants do not require a match, although all tribes supplement their funding to accomplish their Tribal Preservation Office mission.

Since its inception in 1977, the HPF has provided more than \$1.2 billion in historic preservation grants to states, tribes, local governments, and non-profit organizations. Funded at \$80 million in 2017, the HPF does not use any tax dollars. It is supported solely by Outer Continental Shelf oil lease revenues.

Examples of state and local work accomplished with this annual funding include:

- Tennessee’s Historical Commission completed overseeing the restoration of six historic outbuildings associated with Clover Bottom Plantation including former slave cabins, a transverse crib horse barn, a carriage house and a poultry house;
- In May 2016, the State Historical Society of North Dakota conducted the first-ever “ArcheoBlitz” at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, engaging 250 middle-school students in archeological research;
- In 2017, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office collaborated and were successful in nominating the former Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School to the National Register of Historic Places.

Examples of tribal efforts and accomplishments with this annual funding include:

- The Brighton Field School, an interactive archaeological school for the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s youth and elders, has examined a 20th century Anglo-pioneer homestead on tribal lands. Interpretations and survey findings from the project will be incorporated into the Tribal and National Register of Historic Places nominations.
- Since 2015, annual GPS and GIS capacity and database building programs have enabled the Pueblo of Zuni and the Tejon Indian Tribe to document, manage, and consult on historic properties and resources;
- Beginning in 2015, the Karuk Tribe K-12 Oral History Curriculum Project has trained youth to help tell the stories of their community through videography, oral history research, and by documenting tribal culture and history.

For more information about the National Park Service historic preservation programs and grants, please visit www.nps.gov/stlpg/.

STATE GRANTS

STATE	AWARD
ALABAMA	\$ 368,684
ALASKA	\$ 519,049
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$ 30,959

ARIZONA	\$ 395,963
ARKANSAS	\$ 313,806
CALIFORNIA	\$ 899,922
COLORADO	\$ 417,936
CONNECTICUT	\$ 299,302
DELAWARE	\$ 135,423
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$ 133,129
FLORIDA	\$ 533,963
MICRONESIA	\$ 184,478
GEORGIA	\$ 438,887
GUAM	\$ 41,139
HAWAII	\$ 172,372
IDAHO	\$ 296,864
ILLINOIS	\$ 622,709
INDIANA	\$ 442,493
IOWA	\$ 387,939
KANSAS	\$ 382,819
KENTUCKY	\$ 361,635
LOUISIANA	\$ 373,237
MAINE	\$ 278,522
MARSHALL ISLANDS	\$ 106,914
MARYLAND	\$ 348,742
MASSACHUSETTS	\$ 443,292
MICHIGAN	\$ 598,583
MINNESOTA	\$ 462,881

MISSISSIPPI	\$ 306,226
MISSOURI	\$ 457,581
MONTANA	\$ 339,030
NEBRASKA	\$ 339,354
NEVADA	\$ 307,904
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$ 208,504
NEW JERSEY	\$ 449,186
NEW MEXICO	\$ 341,169
NEW YORK	\$ 794,529
NORTH CAROLINA	\$ 450,358
NORTH DAKOTA	\$ 256,431
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS	\$ 42,488
OHIO	\$ 592,496
OKLAHOMA	\$ 374,584
OREGON	\$ 402,176
PALAU	\$ 106,914
PENNSYLVANIA	\$ 651,812
PUERTO RICO	\$ 227,874
RHODE ISLAND	\$ 175,526
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$ 319,234
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$ 275,027
TENNESSEE	\$ 390,153
TEXAS	\$ 773,809
UTAH	\$ 328,881
VERMONT	\$ 171,652

VIRGINIA	\$ 425,995
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$ 45,879
WASHINGTON	\$ 447,956
WEST VIRGINIA	\$ 276,583
WISCONSIN	\$ 469,497
WYOMING	\$ 262,550
TOTAL	\$21,003,000

TRIBAL GRANTS

TRIBE	STATE	CITY	AWARD
Native Village of Kake	Alaska	Kate	\$ 22,645
Poarch Band of Creek Indians	Alabama	Atmore	\$ 23,379
Colorado River Indian Tribes of the Colorado River Indian Reservation	Arizona	Parker	\$ 30,553
Gila River Indian Community	Arizona	Sacaton	\$ 31,148
Hualapai Tribe	Arizona	Peach Springs	\$ 33,712
Navajo Nation	Arizona	Window Rock	\$ 45,974
San Carlos Apache Tribe	Arizona	San Carlos	\$ 35,701
Tohono O'odham Nation	Arizona	Sells	\$ 37,264
White Mountain Apache Tribe	Arizona	Fort Apache	\$ 35,335
Agua Caliente Band of	California	Palm Springs	\$ 25,241

Cahuilla Indians			
Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria	California	Loleta	\$ 22,971
Big Pine Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley	California	Big Pine	\$ 23,449
Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians of the Big Valley Rancheria	California	Lakeport	\$ 23,538
Bishop Paiute Tribe	California	Bishop	\$ 23,952
Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe of Indians	California	Blue Lake	\$ 23,053
Bridgeport Indian Colony	California	Bridgeport	\$ 23,040
Buena Vista Rancheria Me Wuk Indians of California	California	Sacramento	\$ 22,995
Cahuilla Band of Indians	California	Anza	\$ 26,300
Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria	California	Trinidad	\$ 23,050
Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians	California	Geyserville	\$ 23,022
Elk Valley Rancheria	California	Crescent City	\$ 23,593
Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians	California	Oroville	\$ 23,040
Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria	California	Rohnert Park	\$ 23,414
Fort Independence Indian Community of Paiute Indians of the Fort Independence Indian Reservation	California	Independence	\$ 23,739
Hoopla Valley	California	Hoopla	\$ 28,404
Hopland Band of Pomo Indians	California	Hopland	\$ 24,442
Karuk Tribe	California	Orleans	\$ 23,920

Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of Stewarts Point Rancheria	California	Santa Rosa	\$ 23,708
Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians	California	Middletown	\$ 23,129
Pala Band of Mission Indians	California	Pala	\$ 25,751
Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians of the Pechanga Reservation	California	Temecula	\$ 24,318
Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians	California	Fresno	\$ 23,269
Pinoleville Pomo Nation	California	Ukiah	\$ 23,103
Pit River Tribe	California	Burney	\$ 25,965
Round Valley Indian Tribe	California	Covelo	\$ 27,101
Sherwood Valley Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians of California	California	Willits	\$ 23,711
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians	California	Shingle Springs	\$ 23,251
Smith River Rancheria	California	Smith River	\$ 22,873
Susanville Indian Rancheria	California	Susanville	\$ 24,074
Timbisha Shoshone Tribe	California	Bishop	\$ 25,427
Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians	California	Coachella	\$ 23,533
United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria	California	Auburn	\$ 24,135
Wiyot Tribe	California	Loleta	\$ 23,129
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	California	Brooks	\$ 24,079
Yurok Tribe	California	Hoopa	\$ 27,692
Ute Mountain Ute	Colorado	Towaoc	\$ 32,415

Mashantucket Western Pequot Tribe	Connecticut	Mashantucket	\$ 24,299
Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut	Connecticut	Uncasville	\$ 23,695
Seminole Tribe of Florida	Florida	Clewiston	\$ 28,378
Coeur d'Alene Tribe	Idaho	Plummer	\$ 31,264
Nez Perce Tribe of Indians	Idaho	Lapwai	\$ 32,986
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska	Kansas	White Cloud	\$ 25,834
Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana	Louisiana	Charenton	\$ 23,638
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana	Louisiana	Elton	\$ 24,048
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians	Louisiana	Jena	\$ 22,979
Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana	Louisiana	Marksville	\$ 23,861
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)	Massachusetts	Aquinnah	\$ 23,593
Aroostook Band of Micmacs	Maine	Presque Ilse	\$ 24,103
Passamaquoddy Tribe	Maine	Princeton	\$ 29,062
Penobscot Nation	Maine	Indian Island	\$ 28,191
Bay Mills Indian Community	Michigan	Brimley	\$ 24,951
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community	Michigan	Baraga	\$ 27,646
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Michigan	Watersmeet	\$ 23,477
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians	Michigan	Harbor Springs	\$ 24,100
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi	Michigan	Fulton	\$ 23,329

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians	Michigan	Dowagiac	\$ 24,730
Saginaw Chippewa	Michigan	Mt. Pleasant	\$ 29,152
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians	Minnesota	Nett Lake	\$ 29,000
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Minnesota	Cloquet	\$ 28,596
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Minnesota	Grand Portage	\$ 27,456
Leech Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	Minnesota	Cass Lake	\$ 32,634
Lower Sioux Indian Community	Minnesota	Morton	\$ 24,337
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians	Minnesota	Onamia	\$ 28,661
Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota	Minnesota	Welch	\$ 24,526
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians	Minnesota	Red Lake	\$ 33,107
Upper Sioux Community	Minnesota	Granite Falls	\$ 24,232
White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa	Minnesota	White Earth	\$ 33,217
Blackfeet Nation	Montana	Browning	\$ 35,046
Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation	Montana	Box Elder	\$ 28,872
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Nation	Montana	Pablo	\$ 34,571
Crow Tribe of Indians	Montana	Crow Agency	\$ 36,440
Fort Belknap Indian Community	Montana	Harlem	\$ 32,541
Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes	Montana	Poplar	\$ 36,125

Northern Cheyenne Tribe	Montana	Lame Deer	\$ 31,594
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	North Carolina	Cherokee	\$ 27,681
Spirit Lake Tribe of Fort Totten	North Dakota	Fort Totten	\$ 30,231
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe	North Dakota	Fort Yates	\$ 36,518
Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation (Mandan, Hidatsa, & Arikara Nation)	North Dakota	New Town	\$ 33,770
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa	North Dakota	Belcourt	\$ 28,146
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska	Nebraska	Macy	\$ 29,805
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska	Nebraska	Niobara	\$ 23,249
Santee Sioux Tribe	Nebraska	Niobara	\$ 28,835
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska	Nebraska	Winnebago	\$ 28,769
Jicarilla Apache Nation	New Mexico	Dulce	\$ 33,358
Mescalero Apache Tribe	New Mexico	Mescalero	\$ 31,651
Pueblo of Isleta	New Mexico	Isleta	\$ 29,926
Pueblo of Jemez	New Mexico	Jemez	\$ 28,393
Pueblo of Laguna	New Mexico	Laguna	\$ 31,856
Pueblo of Pojoaque	New Mexico	Santa Fe	\$ 25,832
Pueblo of San Felipe	New Mexico	San Felipe	\$ 27,779
Pueblo of Santa Ana	New Mexico	Santa Ana	\$ 28,108
Pueblo of Santa Clara	New Mexico	Espanola	\$ 27,662
Pueblo of Tesuque	New Mexico	Santa Fe	\$ 26,175
Pueblo of Zuni	New Mexico	Zuni Pueblo	\$ 31,664
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe	Nevada	Nixon	\$ 31,714

Reno Sparks Indian Colony	Nevada	Reno	\$ 26,088
Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California	Nevada	Gardnerville	\$ 24,986
Seneca Nation of Indians	New York	Salamanca	\$ 27,641
St. Regis Mohawk	New York	Akwesasne	\$ 26,164
Absentee Shawnee Tribe	Oklahoma	Shawnee	\$ 23,810
Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Binger	\$ 23,070
Cherokee Nation	Oklahoma	Teahlequah	\$ 27,374
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes	Oklahoma	Concho	\$ 25,676
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Durant	\$ 26,124
Citizen Potawatomi	Oklahoma	Shawnee	\$ 24,065
Comanche Nation	Oklahoma	Lawton	\$ 23,733
Eastern Shawnee of Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Wyandotte	\$ 23,817
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Miami	\$ 23,183
Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Oklahoma	Okmulgee	\$ 25,330
Osage Nation	Oklahoma	Pawhuska	\$ 23,900
Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Red Rock	\$ 24,692
Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Miami	\$ 23,258
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Pawnee	\$ 24,266
Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Ponca City	\$ 24,446
Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Quapaw	\$ 24,156
Seneca Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Grove	\$ 24,204

Thlopthlocco Tribal Town	Oklahoma	Okemah	\$ 24,525
Wyandotte Nation	Oklahoma	Wyandotte	\$ 23,520
Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw	Oregon	Coos Bay	\$ 23,183
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Indian Community of Oregon	Oregon	Grand Ronde	\$ 25,719
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Oregon	Pendleton	\$ 30,264
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation in Oregon	Oregon	Warm Springs	\$ 32,565
Coquille Indian Tribe	Oregon	North Bend	\$ 25,273
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	Oregon	Roseburg	\$ 24,897
Narragansett Indian Tribe	Rhode Island	Charlestown	\$ 24,412
Catawba Indian Nation	South Carolina	Rock Hill	\$ 24,035
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe	South Dakota	Eagle Butte	\$ 37,233
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe	South Dakota	Fort Thompson	\$ 21,923
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe	South Dakota	Flandreau	\$ 24,474
Oglala Sioux Tribe	South Dakota	Porcupine	\$ 36,007
Rosebud Sioux Tribe of Indians	South Dakota	Rosebud	\$ 33,472
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate	South Dakota	Sisseton	\$ 26,342
Yankton Sioux Tribe	South Dakota	Wagner	\$ 27,679
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation	Washington	Toppenish	\$ 34,752
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Washington	Oakville	\$ 25,039

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation	Washington	Nespelem	\$ 34,767
Lummi Nation	Washington	Bellingham	\$ 26,418
Makah Tribe	Washington	Neah Bay	\$ 26,751
Nooksack Tribe	Washington	Deming	\$ 23,461
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	Washington	Kingston	\$ 24,189
Samish Indian Nation	Washington	Anacortes	\$ 23,029
Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe	Washington	Darrington	\$ 23,103
Skokomish Indian Tribe	Washington	Skokomish	\$ 25,063
Spokane Tribe of Indians	Washington	Wellpinit	\$ 29,355
Squaxin Island Tribe	Washington	Shelton	\$ 24,413
Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians	Washington	Arlington	\$ 23,916
Suquamish Tribe	Washington	Sugumish	\$ 25,429
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community	Washington	La Conner	\$ 25,699
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Wisconsin	Odanah	\$ 28,939
Forest County Potawatomi Community	Wisconsin	Crandon	\$ 25,841
Ho-Chunk Nation	Wisconsin	Black River	\$ 24,503
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Hayward	\$ 28,183
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Wisconsin	Lac du Flambeau	\$ 28,461
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Keshena	\$ 30,145
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin	Wisconsin	Oneida	\$ 25,417

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Wisconsin	Bayfield	\$ 26,023
Stockbridge-Munsee Community	Wisconsin	Bowler	\$ 26,178
Northern Arapaho Tribe	Wyoming	St. Stevens	\$ 36,412
Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation	Wyoming	Fort Washakie	\$ 36,413
Total			\$4,580,335

###

To: Jason Funes[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Kacie Shallow
Sent: 2017-08-19T07:50:20-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Automatic reply: Name badges
Received: 2017-08-19T07:50:35-04:00

Thank you for your email! The entire events team is on site for the Defending the American Dream Summit. Please excuse the delay in our response. One of us will get back to you as soon as we can.

Goooooooo Team Freedom!

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-23T20:08:20-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Will Be In Contact Tomorrow Morning
Received: 2017-08-23T20:08:52-04:00

Esteemed Colleagues,

As our department is rolling out a much anticipated announcement, I would like to call you myself or have an associate reach out to you regarding this issue tomorrow morning.

I'll be able to share more details with you about the announcement roll out from the DOI and WH perspective tomorrow.

We'll speak soon,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541
Cell: (202) 897-7189

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Grant Kidwell
Sent: 2017-08-24T09:06:52-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Will Be In Contact Tomorrow Morning
Received: 2017-08-24T09:07:01-04:00

Thanks. Working on a blog post now about this and other materials.

From: Funes, Jason [mailto:jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 8:08 PM
Subject: Will Be In Contact Tomorrow Morning

Esteemed Colleagues,

As our department is rolling out a much anticipated announcement, I would like to call you myself or have an associate reach out to you regarding this issue tomorrow morning.

I'll be able to share more details with you about the announcement roll out from the DOI and WH perspective tomorrow.

We'll speak soon,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541
Cell: (202) 897-7189

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-24T11:04:44-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Will Be In Contact Tomorrow Morning
Received: 2017-08-24T11:06:02-04:00
Monumental Growth - National Monuments Review.pdf

- ☐ Average size of monument designation under President Obama was **191 times larger** than national monuments designated under President Teddy Roosevelt.
 - ☐ **66%** of land/water mass of **ALL** national monuments, were designated by the Obama administration alone.
 - ☐ At least 5 different Presidential administrations (Eisenhower, Truman, Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge) have reduced the size of national monuments.
-

MONUMENTAL GROWTH:

Expansive National Monuments and the Policy Solution

Matthew Anderson and Ian Nemelka

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Since the Antiquities Act was passed in 1906, 16 presidents have used executive authority to create or enlarge national monuments. These presidential actions have placed parcels of less than an acre to over 280 million acres under national monument status. Although there have been fluctuations in the size of these creations and expansions over the past 111 years, the last 40 years have seen a significant hike in the amounts of land and water being designated by presidents of both parties. The modern practice of designating expansive national monuments does not align with the original intent of the Antiquities Act; it actually puts antiquities at increased risk of destruction and desecration. National monument designations also come with high opportunity costs to local economies through the restrictions they place on multiple-use management policies. The solution to these executive abuses is to reform the Antiquities Act to align with the American principles of separation of powers, checks and balances, and open public debate.

Each action by Obama placed an average of 16,281,738 acres under national monument status – more than 191 times larger than the average of those designated under the Roosevelt administration. This trend is not exclusive to the Roosevelt-Obama comparison. Comparing the first eight administrations that utilized the Antiquities Act with the most recent eight, average acquisitions have been 89 times bigger since President Dwight D. Eisenhower took office (see Figure 2).

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF EXPANSIVE NATIONAL MONUMENTS?

1. Expansive monuments violate the original intent of the Antiquities Act

The Antiquities Act states that presidential designations must be restricted to “the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.”² This language reflects the legislative history of the Act wherein Congress proposed to limit presidential designations to no more than 640 acres.³ While ultimately the 640-acre restriction was not included, it is apparent that the original intent of the act was to confine national monuments to specific historic, cultural and scientific objects. Today’s typical monument designation, on the other hand, combines these objects with hundreds of thousands – or even millions – of additional acres. These additions are often justified for reasons of climate change, environmental protection and outdoor recreation, none of which are included in the language of the Antiquities Act.

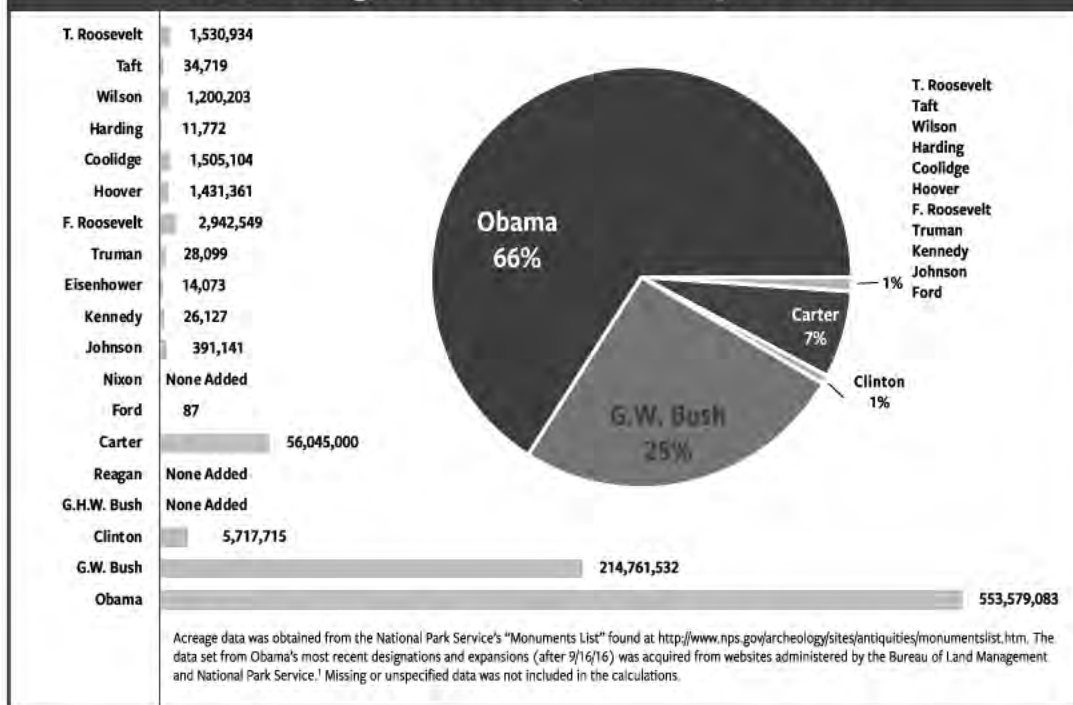
2. Expansive monuments put antiquities at increased risk

Large monuments can put our national treasures at an increased risk of desecration and destruction. The publicity of a national monument designation brings with it increased visitation to the area. This imposes

more demand on federal managers to protect the environment, maintain infrastructure and safeguard historic and cultural sites. With a combined deferred maintenance backlog exceeding \$17 billion, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service are strapped for cash – lacking sufficient resources to adequately protect national monuments under their supervision.⁴ Large national monuments exacerbate this issue as they have higher personnel and infrastructure needs than smaller designations do.

Figure 1

Acres Designated and Expanded by Presidents



WHAT DO THE DATA SAY?

According to data from the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management, the amount of acreage placed under national monument status has dramatically increased over time (see Figure 1). Theodore Roosevelt, the first president to utilize the Antiquities Act, designated 18 national monuments for a total of 1,530,934 acres – an average of 85,052 acres per designation. President Barack Obama designated or expanded national monuments 34 times, for a total of 553,579,083 acres.

3. Expansive monuments have unnecessarily high opportunity costs

National monuments can provide some economic benefit to communities through increased tourism. However, these benefits can come with trade-offs when monuments are expansive: restricting multiple-use management policies that promise stronger, more diversified economies. These economic opportunity costs can be especially crippling when expansive designations block hundreds of thousands of acres from economic activities like grazing,⁵ timber harvesting, commercial fishing, mineral extraction⁶ and alternative forms of outdoor recreation. Small national monuments often avoid such opportunity costs because their harm to other economic activities is limited by their size. Tourism can generate net economic benefits over the long term as part of a multiple-use management strategy, but it can weaken economic resilience when it is the sole economic driver.

Figure 1

President	Average Designation/ Expansion (in acres)
T. Roosevelt	85,052
Taft	3,156
Wilson	75,013
Harding	1,177
Coolidge	83,617
Hoover	102,240
F. Roosevelt	101,467
Truman	2,810
Eisenhower	1,083
Kennedy	4,389
Johnson	78,228
Ford	43
Carter	3,296,765
Clinton	259,896
G.W. Bush	30,680,219
Obama	16,281,738

Acres data was obtained from the National Park Service's "Monuments List" found at <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/antiquities/monumentslist.htm>. The data set from Obama's most recent designations and expansions (after 9/6/16) was acquired from websites administered by the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service. Missing or unspecified data was not included in the calculations.

WHAT IS THE POLICY SOLUTION?

Presidents should retain the power to designate national monuments with few barriers when the area in question is a small site in immediate danger of desecration or destruction. However, national monument

designations and expansions larger than a few hundred acres should require approval by Congress and by the legislature and governor of the impacted state. Additionally, a board of local stakeholders and residents should approve management plans for large national monuments. This solution ensures an open dialogue and meaningful public input on national monuments – this is important because monuments are likely to create unintended consequences for antiquities and local economies. It also establishes reasonable checks on unilateral executive power under the Antiquities Act while still allowing presidents the ability to protect national treasures that are genuinely threatened. This reform will protect the people against abuses from political and ideological extremes, preserve the original intent of the law, safeguard antiquities, and secure the American Dream for communities impacted by national monument designations and expansions.

SOURCES

1 "Cascade Siskiyou National Monument Expansion," Bureau of Land Management: Department of the Interior. https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/documents/files/csnmfactsheet_0.pdf (accessed June 4, 2017). "Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument," National Park Service: Department of the Interior. <https://www.nps.gov/bicr/faqs.htm> (accessed June 4, 2017). "The Reconstruction Era National Monument," National Park Service: Department of the Interior. <https://www.nps.gov/reer/learn/proclamation.htm> (accessed June 4, 2017). "The Freedom Riders National Monument," National Park Service: Department of the Interior. <https://www.nps.gov/frri/learn/proclamation.htm> (accessed June 6, 2017). "Gold Butte National Monument," Bureau of Land Management: Department of the Interior. <https://www.blm.gov/gold-butte> (accessed June 8, 2017). "Bear Ears National Monument," Bureau of Land Management: Department of the Interior. https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/bear_ears_fact_sheet.pdf (accessed July 1, 2017).

2 The Antiquities Act, 16 U.S.C. 431-433

3 Carol Hardy Vincent, "National Monument and the Antiquities Act," Congressional Research Service, September 7, 2016. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41330.pdf>

4 Carol Vincent, "Deferred Maintenance of Federal Land Management Agencies: FY2007 FY2016 Estimates and Issues," Congressional Research Service, April 25, 2017. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43997.pdf>

5 Gil Miller and Kevin Heaton, "Livestock Grazing on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument: Its Importance to the Local Economy," Utah State University Extension, September 2015. http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/extension_curall/765

6 Randy Simmons, Ryan Yonk, Kayla Dawn Harris and Megan Hansen, "Energy in National Monuments," Strata Policy (August 2013).



Copyright © 2017 Sutherland Institute. All rights reserved. The Coalition for Self Government in the West (CSGW) is a project of Sutherland Institute. More information is available at CSGW's website, sutherlandinstitute.org/selfgov.

15 West South Temple, Suite 200 | Salt Lake City, UT 84101

801.355.1272 | sutherlandinstitute.org

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-24T11:07:34-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Will Be In Contact Tomorrow Morning
Received: 2017-08-24T11:08:29-04:00

Secretary Zinke Sends Monument Report to the White House

(WASHINGTON) Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke sent a final report to the president which included his findings and recommendations on national monuments that were under review as a result of the April 26, 2017 [executive order](#). The report summary can be read [here](#). The extensive 120-day review included more than 60 meetings with hundreds of advocates and opponents of monument designations, tours of monuments conducted over air, foot, car, and horseback (including a virtual tour of a marine monument), and a thorough review of more than 2.4 million public comments submitted to the Department on [regulations.gov](#). Additionally, countless more meetings and conversations between senior Interior officials and local, state, Tribal, and non-government stakeholders including multiple Tribal listening sessions.

The review was implemented by President Trump in order to restore trust in the multiple-use mission of the Department and to give rural communities a voice in federal land management decisions. In order to make the process transparent and give local residents and stakeholders a voice, the Secretary [announced](#) on May 5, 2017 the opening up of a formal comment period for the review, as the President directed. This was the first time ever that a formal comment period was open on [regulations.gov](#) for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

“No President should use the authority under the Antiquities Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land, or eliminate traditional land uses, unless such action is needed to protect the object,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “The recommendations I sent to the president on national monuments will maintain federal ownership of all federal land and protect the land under federal environmental regulations, and also provide a much needed change for the local communities who border and rely on these lands for hunting and fishing, economic development, traditional uses, and recreation.”

While traveling across the country, Secretary Zinke met with hundreds of local stakeholders and heard concerns about some national monuments negatively impacting things like local revenue from federal lands, agriculture, private property rights, public access to land, traditional Tribal uses of the land, and timber harvesting.

Over the 120-day review, Secretary Zinke visited eight national monument sites in six states.

- Bears Ears (UT)
- Grand Staircase Escalante (UT)
- Katahdin Woods and Waters (ME)
- Northeast Canyons and Seamounts
- Cascade Siskiyou (OR & CA)
- Organ Peaks (NM)
- Basin and Range (NV)
- Gold Butte (NV)

The following national monuments were announced to have been removed from review prior to the August 24 deadline:

- [Craters of the Moon](#)
- [Hanford Reach](#)
- [Upper Missouri River Breaks](#)
- [Grand Canyon-Parashant](#)
- [Canyons of the Ancients](#)
- [Sand to Snow](#)

###

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY BY U.S. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR RYAN ZINKE

In 1906, Congress delegated to the President the power to designate a monument under the Antiquities Act (Act). The Act authorizes the President singular authority to designate national monuments without public comment, environmental review, or further consent of Congress. Given this extraordinary executive power, Congress wisely placed limits on the President by defining the objects that may be included within a monument as being "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest," by restricting the authority to Federal lands, and by limiting the size of the monument to "the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects." Congress retained its authority to make land use designations without such limitations. Even with the restrictive language, use of the Act has not always been without controversy. In fact, even Theodore Roosevelt's first proclamation of the roughly 1,200 acre Devil's Tower in Wyoming was controversial. Since that time, the use of the Act has largely been viewed as an overwhelming American success story and today includes almost 200 of America's greatest treasures.

More recently, however, the Act's executive authority is under scrutiny as administrations have expanded both the size and scope of monument designations. Since 1996 alone, the Act has been used by the President 26 times to create monuments that are over 100,000 acres or more in size and have included private property within the identified external boundaries. While early monument designations focused more on geological formations, archaeological ruins, and areas of historical interest, a more recent and broad interpretation of what constitutes an "object of historic or scientific interest" has been extended to include landscape areas, biodiversity, and view sheds. Moreover, features such as World War II desert bombing craters and remoteness have been included in justifying proclamations.

The responsibility of protecting America's public lands and unique antiquities should not be taken lightly; nor should the authority and the power granted to a President under the Act. No President should use the authority under the Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land, or eliminate traditional land uses, unless such action is needed to protect the object. It is Congress and not the President that has the authority to make protective land designations outside of the narrow scope of the Act, and only Congress retains the authority to enact designations such as national parks, wilderness, and national conservation and recreation areas. The executive power under the Act is not a substitute for a lack of congressional action on protective land designations.

President Trump was correct in tasking the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to review and provide recommendations of all monuments that were designated from 1996 to the present that are 100,000 acres or greater in size or made without adequate public consultation. This is far from the first time an examination of scope of monuments has been conducted. Existing monuments have been modified by successive Presidents in the past, including 18 reductions in the size of monuments, and there is no doubt that President Trump has the authority to review and consider recommendations to modify or add a monument.

The methodology used for the review consisted of three steps. The first step was to gather the facts which included the examination of existing proclamations, object(s) to be protected, segregation of the objects (if practical) to meet the "smallest area compatible" requirement, the scientific and rational basis for the boundaries, land uses within the monument, public access concerns and authorized traditional uses, and appropriate environmental and cultural protections. As directed by the President, the second step was to ensure that the local voice was heard by holding meetings with local, state, tribal, and other elected officials as well as meetings with non-profit groups and other stakeholders, as well as providing an online format for public comment. The final step was to review policies on public access, hunting and fishing rights, traditional use such as timber production and grazing, economic and environmental impacts, potential legal conflicts, and provide a report to the President no later than August 24, 2017.

The review found that each monument was unique in terms of the object(s) used for justification, proclamation language, history, management plans, economic impact, and local support. Adherence to the Act's definition of an "object" and "smallest area compatible" clause on some monuments were either arbitrary or likely

politically motivated or boundaries could not be supported by science or reasons of practical resource management. Despite the apparent lack of adherence to the purpose of the Act, some monuments reflect a long public debate process and are largely settled and strongly supported by the local community. Other monuments remain controversial and contain significant private property within the identified external boundary or overlap with other Federal land designations such as national forests, Wilderness Study Areas, and lands specifically set aside by Congress for timber production.

Public comments can be divided into two principal groups. Proponents tended to promote monument designation as a mechanism to prevent the sale or transfer of public land. This narrative is false and has no basis in fact. Public lands within a monument are federally owned and managed regardless of monument designation under the Act. Proponents also point to the economic benefits from increased tourism from monument recognition. On this point, monument status has a potential economic benefit of increased visitation, particularly to service related industries, outdoor recreation industries, and other businesses dependent or supported by tourism. Increased visitation also places an additional burden and responsibility on the Federal Government to provide additional resources and manpower to maintain these lands to better support increased visitation and recreational activities.

Comments received were overwhelmingly in favor of maintaining existing monuments and demonstrated a well-orchestrated national campaign organized by multiple organizations. Opponents of monuments primarily supported rescinding or modifying the existing monuments to protect traditional multiple use, and those most concerned were often local residents associated with industries such as grazing, timber production, mining, hunting and fishing, and motorized recreation. Opponents point to other cases where monument designation has resulted in reduced public access, road closures, hunting and fishing restrictions, multiple and confusing management plans, reduced grazing allotments and timber production, and pressure applied to private land owners encompassed by or adjacent to a monument to sell.

To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Chrissy Harbin
Sent: 2017-08-24T11:15:34-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Will Be In Contact Tomorrow Morning
Received: 2017-08-24T11:15:43-04:00

Awesome!! Grant is working up something

Sent from my iPhone

> On Aug 24, 2017, at 11:14 AM, Funes, Jason <jason_funes@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

>

> • Average size of monument designation under President Obama was 191 times larger than national monuments designated under President Teddy Roosevelt.

> • 66% of land/water mass of ALL national monuments, were designated by the Obama administration alone.

>

> • At least 5 different Presidential administrations (Eisenhower, Truman, Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge) have reduced the size of national monuments.

>

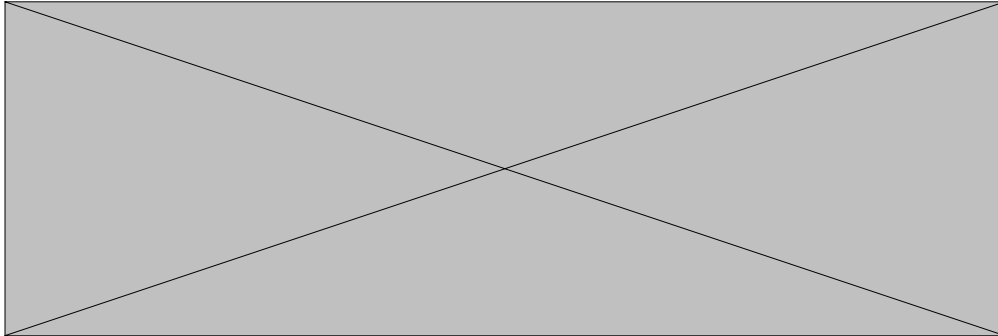
> [<https://ssl.gstatic.com/ui/v1/icons/mail/images/cleardot.gif>]

>

>

> <Monumental Growth - National Monuments Review.pdf>

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-24T13:13:22-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Sends Monument Report to the White House
Received: 2017-08-24T13:14:03-04:00



Date: August 24, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Sends Monument Report to the White House

WASHINGTON Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke sent a draft report to the president which included his findings and recommendations on national monuments that were under review as a result of the April 26, 2017 [executive order](#). The report summary can be read [here](#). The extensive 120-day review included more than 60 meetings with hundreds of advocates and opponents of monument designations, tours of monuments conducted over air, foot, car, and horseback (including a virtual tour of a marine monument), and a thorough review of more than 2.4 million public comments submitted to the Department on [regulations.gov](#). Additionally, countless more meetings and conversations between senior Interior officials and local, state, Tribal, and non-government stakeholders including multiple Tribal listening sessions.

The review was initiated by President Trump in order to restore trust in the multiple-use mission of the Department and to give rural communities a voice in federal land management decisions. In order to make the process transparent and give local residents and stakeholders a voice, the Secretary [announced](#) on May 5, 2017 the opening up of a formal comment period for the review, as the President directed. This was the first time ever that a formal comment period was open on [regulations.gov](#) for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

“No President should use the authority under the Antiquities Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land, or eliminate traditional land uses, unless such action is needed to protect the object,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “The recommendations I sent to the president on national monuments will maintain federal ownership of all federal land and protect the land under federal environmental regulations, and also provide a much needed change for the local communities who border and rely on these lands for hunting and fishing, economic

development, traditional uses, and recreation.”

While traveling across the country, Secretary Zinke met with hundreds of local stakeholders and heard concerns about some national monuments negatively impacting things like local revenue from federal lands, agriculture, private property rights, public access to land, traditional Tribal uses of the land, and timber harvesting.

Over the 120-day review, Secretary Zinke visited eight national monument sites in six states:

- Bears Ears (UT)
- Grand Staircase Escalante (UT)
- Katahdin Woods and Waters (ME)
- Northeast Canyons and Seamounts
- Cascade Siskiyou (OR & CA)
- Organ Mountain Desert-Peaks (NM)
- Basin and Range (NV)
- Gold Butte (NV)

The following national monuments were announced to have been removed from review prior to the August 24 deadline:

- Craters of the Moon
- Hanford Reach
- Upper Missouri River Breaks
- Grand Canyon-Parashant
- Canyons of the Ancients
- Sand to Snow

###

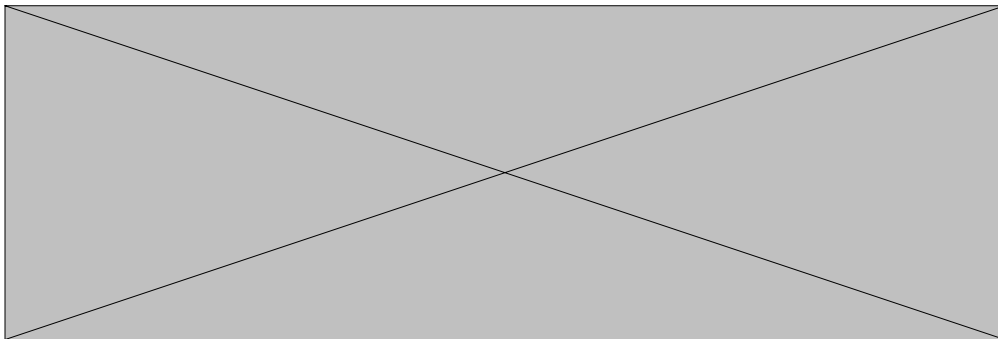
From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-25T15:45:37-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: WTAS: Zinke Praised for Recommendation on National Monuments
Received: 2017-08-25T15:46:44-04:00

Esteemed Colleagues,

If you or your organization is working on any material, op-eds, or provided quotes in news articles regarding the national monument review announcement; please send me a link. The Secretary and our senior staff would like to know about it.

Thank you,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541



Date: August 25, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

WTAS: Zinke Praised for Recommendation on National Monuments

What They Are Saying About Secretary Zinke's recommendation to President Trump on the National Monuments

The Washington Post: **Secretary Zinke's monument review is praised by New England and Hawaii commercial fishing groups, along with New Mexico ranchers.** "Fishing groups said they were encouraged by Zinke stating that his recommendations would "provide a much needed change for the local communities who border and rely on these lands for hunting and fishing." "Hispanic ranchers from New Mexico who met with U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke while he

gathered information about national monuments say they're encouraged that the changes could help them get more grazing and water rights." (editorial: "The Latest: REI pledges to oppose US monument changes," [The Washington Post](#), 8 24 17)

Roll Call: House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop "called for Congress to overhaul the Antiquities Act to place "reasonable limits" on the way presidents use the statute."

"...the Obama administration had abused the statute that allows presidents to designate national monuments without congressional action. The Interior review, he said, was necessary because some of the designations were a result of abuse of the statute and did not allow for adequate input by local communities." (editorial: "Monuments Review Spurs Call to Overhaul Antiquities Act," [Roll Call](#), 8 24 17)

Waco Tribune-Herald: The Waco Tribune-Herald praises "Secretary Ryan Zinke's reported decision to preserve those national monuments whose designations suddenly appeared in doubt." "One reason this newspaper cheered Zinke's addition to the president's cabinet this year was because of his staunchly conservative credentials as a Republican congressman, yet his resistance to those on the far right who want the government to sell off or give away federal lands, including, yes, parks and monuments. Whatever else, Zinke has indicated he understands President Teddy Roosevelt's insight in first employing the National Antiquities Act of 1906 in preserving public lands." (editorial: "Praise for Interior Secretary Zinke's recommendation preserving our national monuments," [Waco Tribune Herald](#), 8 24 17)

Las Cruces Sun-News: Secretary Zinke came to New Mexico with legitimate reasons and left with information he needs to make a recommendation, not a popular vote for or against the monument. "he visited with the governor, local government, tribal representatives, veterans, Friends of the Organ Mountains, officials concerned with flood control, watershed management, rights of way, border security, public safety officials and ranchers. In my estimation, he visited with a broad spectrum of local citizens to hear their concerns, and not whether people were for or against the monument." (editorial: "Zinke monument review has been fair," [Las Cruces Sun News](#), 8 24 17)

Americans for Tax Reform: Americans for Tax Reform's president Grover Norquist applauds Secretary Zinke's "efforts to highlight some of the most prevalent issues facing national monument designations under the Antiquities Act." "For too long the Antiquities Act has allowed for the unbridled abuse of executive power, far beyond what lawmakers intended when the Act was first passed. The Antiquities Act has permitted past Presidents to designate vast swaths of public land as national monuments unilaterally, often with little to no input from affected stakeholders." (editorial: "ATR applauds Secretary Zinke's Efforts to Improve Antiquities Act Designations," [Americans for Tax Reform](#), 8 24 17)

Americans for Prosperity: Americans for Prosperity praises Secretary Zinke for sending "President Trump a series of recommendations designed to give additional flexibility to local communities impacted by overly broad management of federal lands under the Antiquities Act." "We're pleased that Secretary Zinke has undertaken a review of these large sites from the past two decades to ensure the government is not needlessly encroaching on local economic use, tribal activities, recreation, or simple public access." (editorial: "AFP Thanks Interior Secretary for Recommendations to Rein in Antiquities Act Abuses," [Americans for Prosperity](#), 8 24 17)

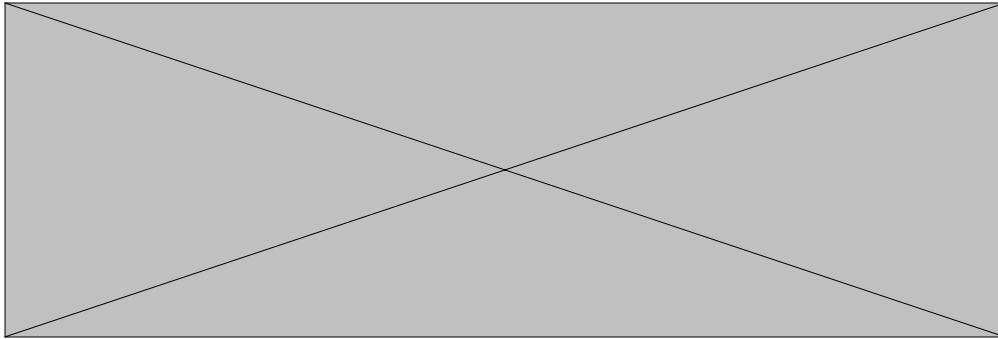
Washington Times: The Washington Times praises Secretary Zinke saying "Interior's Ryan

Zinke thankfully suggests shrinking national monuments. “Americans find themselves facing the slow erosion of private property rights, while would-be miners suffer the very real plight of losing jobs, losing money, losing the freedom to tap resources as they see fit. It’s high time reason be restored to the oft-burdensome, oft-restrictive government bureaucracies in charge of all the U.S. land management and control, agencies that include the National Parks Service, Bureau of Land Management and Environmental Protection Agency,” (editorial: Interior’s Ryan Zinke thankfully suggests shrinking national monuments,” [Washington Times](#), 8 25 17)

Bangor Daily News: Various members of Congress praise Zinke for Monument recommendation. “I am confident that the decision that [Zinke] announces will reflect his in-depth consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders and people in the region,” Sen. Susan Collins said. U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree said she liked Zinke’s “deliberative study of the monument, his recommendation to protect it.” Congressman Rob Bishop, a Utah Republican, said the president should take all the time he needs to study the report before releasing it,” (editorial: Interior Secretary Zinke recommends keeping Maine’s national monument, [Bangor Daily News](#), 8 25 17)

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-08-30T16:15:04-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Statement from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke on President Trump's Tax Reform
Received: 2017-08-30T16:21:58-04:00



Date: August 30, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Statement from Secretary Ryan Zinke on President Trump's Tax Reform

WASHINGTON Today, President Donald J. Trump delivered a speech outlining his priority to deliver tax reform to the American people. The following statement can be attributed to U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke.

"President Trump is once again delivering on a promise to the American people by proposing much-needed tax reform. We have some of the highest taxes in the world, and the impact is felt across the economy.

"The President's proposal would allow Americans to keep more of their hard-earned paychecks, allowing them to invest in their and their children's futures and also support and grow the economy.

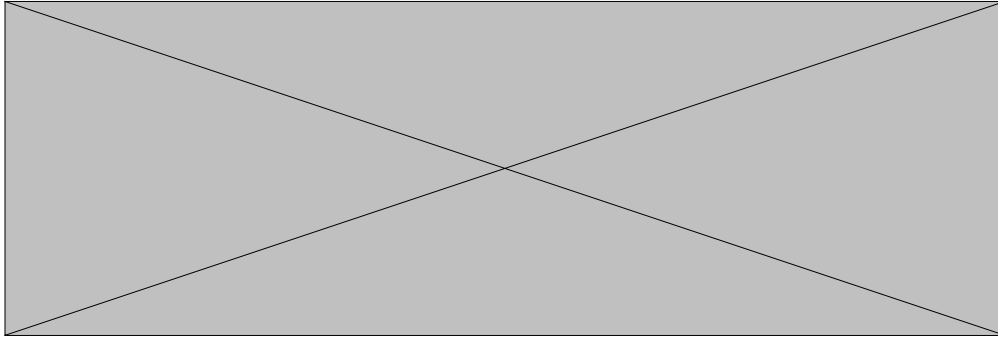
"At Interior, tax reform means Americans will have more money in their pockets, allowing them to do things like go on family vacations to our treasured National Parks and other public lands. There's few things more iconic to America than piling in the family car and going on a road trip to the Grand Canyon, Great Smoky Mountains, or Old Faithful. Last year, visitors to National Parks contributed more than \$35 billion in economic output to local communities and helped support 318,000 jobs in everything from hospitality and recreation to transportation and retail. Parks are economic engines for rural communities, however we can grow tourism and recreation economies if consumers have more money to spend and small businesses have a simpler and fairer tax code to work with.

"Lastly, tax reform and regulatory reform go hand-in-hand. Lower taxes will allow businesses to

have more money to invest in our public lands, which creates jobs and also generates local revenues to benefit schools and rebuild infrastructure."

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-01T12:05:44-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: GOING SOON: Secretary Zinke Appoints Members to the Royalty Policy Committee, Announces First Meeting: TEST
Received: 2017-09-01T12:06:23-04:00



Date: September 1, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Appoints Members to the Royalty Policy Committee, Announces First Meeting

Significant Step Toward Restoring Public Trust, Collaborative Development of Federal Lands

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced the appointment of 20 primary and 18 alternate members to the Department of the Interior's Royalty Policy Committee (Committee) that will serve a critical role in advising the Secretary on policy and strategies to improve management of the multi-billion dollar, federal and American Indian mineral revenue program. The Committee's first meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4.

"Working closely with the Committee, we will come up with solutions for modernizing the management of public and American Indian assets, while building greater trust and transparency in how we value our nation's public mineral resources," **said Secretary Zinke**. "It's important that the taxpayers and tribes get the full and fair value of traditional and renewable energy produced on public lands and offshore areas."

The Committee may also advise the Secretary on the potential impacts of proposed policies and regulations related to revenue collection from energy and mineral development on public lands, including whether a need exists for regulatory reform. To underscore the Department's commitment to reforming revenue management and royalty collections, the Committee, which may consist of up to 28 members, reflects the diverse perspectives of a wide-range of stakeholders, including representatives of western states and American Indian tribes that produce energy, energy stakeholders, academic groups and the general public, as well as Interior officials. Non-federal members will serve three-year terms.

The Secretary appointed Vincent DeVito, counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy, as Chairman of the Committee. "On behalf of the Secretary, I am committed to aligning this Committee with our continuing drive toward making the Department a better business partner and delivering better results for American taxpayers," **said Chairman DeVito.**

The agenda and meeting materials will be posted on the Committee website at www.doi.gov/rpc.

The meeting is open to members of the public, who may attend in person or view the documents and presentations under discussion via WebEx at <http://bit.ly/1cR9W6t> and listen to the proceedings at telephone number 1-888-455-2910 or International Toll number 210-839-8953 (passcode: 7741096). The public will be invited to make statements during the meeting and file written statements with the Committee for consideration. To submit written comments, contact Kim Oliver at rpc@ios.doi.gov or mail your written comments to Royalty Policy Committee, Attn: Kim Oliver, 1849 C Street NW MS 5134, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Secretary Zinke signed a charter in March of this year establishing the [Royalty Policy Committee](#) to review revenues collected from oil and gas drilling, coal mining and renewable energy production on federal lands and offshore areas, and provide regular advice to the Secretary on the fair market value of and collection of revenues from these Federal and Indian mineral and energy leases. Interested persons were invited in the Federal Register to submit their names under the process outlined in the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The Secretary appointed the following non-federal members to the Committee:

States

Primary Members

Andrew McKee, State of Wyoming

Brent Sanford, State of North Dakota

John Crowther, State of Alaska

William Darby, State of Texas

Clinton Carter, State of Alabama

John Andrews, State of Utah

Alternate Members

Hans Hunt, State of Wyoming

Lynn Helms, State of North Dakota

Daniel Saddler, State of Alaska

Jerry Strickland, State of Texas

Mark Edwards, State of New Mexico

Shawn Thomas, State of Montana

Tribes

Primary Members

Russell Begaye, Navajo Nation

Christopher Adam Red, Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Alternate Members

Bidtah Becker, Navajo Nation

Leslie Shakespeare, Eastern Shoshone Tribe

Charles Robertson, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Neil McCaleb, Chickasaw Nation

Everett Waller, Osage Minerals Council

Harry Barnes, Blackfeet Nation

Mineral/Energy Stakeholders

Primary Members

Alternate Members

Randall Luthi, National Ocean Industries Association

Albert Modiano, US Oil & Gas Association

Patrick Noah, ConocoPhillips Company

Kevin Simpson, Shell Exploration and
Production Co.

Estella Alvarado, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

Greg Morby, Chevron North America E&P

John Sweeney, VWR Corporation

Kathleen Sgamma, Western Energy Alliance

Matthew Adams, Cloud Peak Energy

Gabrielle Gerholt, Concho Resources

Marissa Mitchell, Intersect Power

Jennifer Cadena Fortier, Incremental Oil & Gas
USA

Academia and Public Interest Groups

Primary Members

Alternate Members

Roderick Eggert, Colorado School of Mines

Graham Davis, Colorado School of Mines

Van Romero, New Mexico Institute of Mining and
Technology

Kwame Awuah-Offei, Missouri University of
Science and Technology

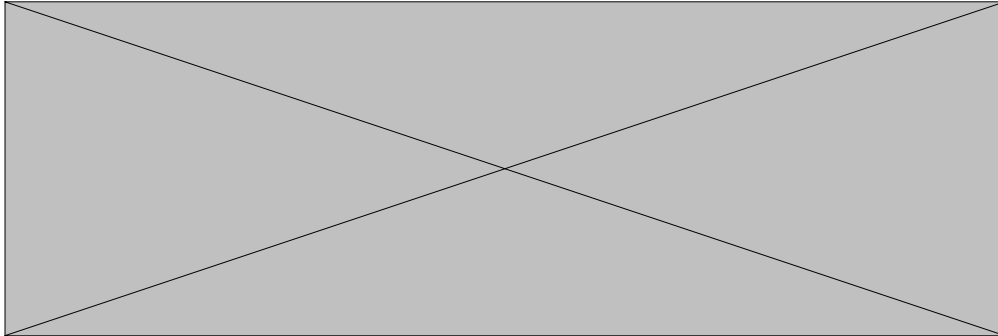
Monte Mills, University of Montana School of Law

Daniel Ruzs, Wood Mackenzie

The Federal Register Notice announcing the first meeting of the Committee can be accessed via the web at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/>. Additional information about the Committee and meeting materials can be found on the Committee website.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-07T09:21:26-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Supports President Trump's Vision for Tax Reform
Received: 2017-09-07T09:22:04-04:00



Date: September 6, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Supports President Trump's Vision for Tax Reform

WASHINGTON Today, President Donald J. Trump traveled to North Dakota to deliver a speech on the need for tax reform and its impact on the American energy sector. The U.S. Department of the Interior oversees all energy production on federal lands and the entire Outer Continental Shelf, which collectively includes oil, gas, coal, wind, solar, geothermal, hydro-power, and more.

The following statement is from U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke:

"I applaud President Donald J. Trump's ambitious and determined work to deliver tax reform to America's energy workers.

"High taxes and over-regulation have discouraged development of our natural resources and job creation on federal lands for too long. Energy-rich states like North Dakota have proven the economic benefits that go hand-in-hand with harnessing these energy resources - including the over 5 million acres of federal mineral estate managed by the Department. North Dakota is the second highest producer of oil behind Texas - it is an energy powerhouse that will help lead our country to energy dominance. As global competition for investment increases and other countries seek to attract investment to their shores, we need to be ever vigilant that the United States maintains its competitive edge. The market for reliable and affordable energy is strong, but right now our high tax rate and over-regulation punishes companies for doing business in the U.S.

"Tax reform will restore our competitive edge so we can create more jobs and higher wages for American energy workers on federal lands and waters, and it will help put us on track toward American Energy Dominance.

"Developing American energy and achieving American energy dominance has three major benefits to the environment, economy, and national security:

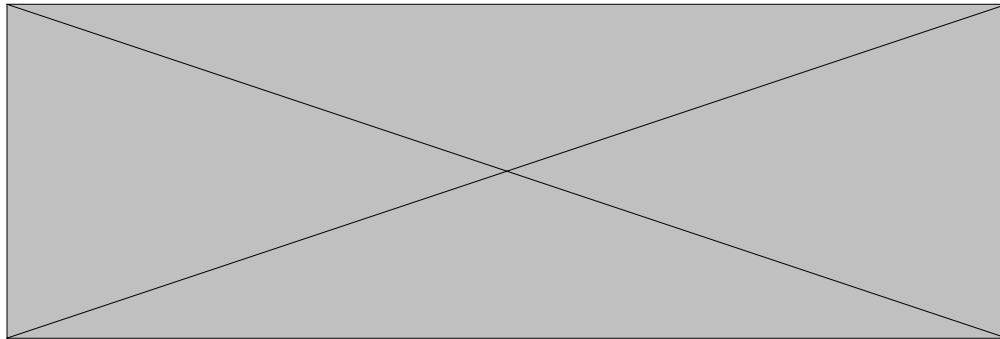
"First, it's better for the environment that the U.S. produces energy. I've spent a lot of time as a Navy SEAL in the Middle East, and I can tell you with 100 percent certainty it is better to develop our energy here under reasonable regulations rather than have it produced overseas with little or no regulation.

"Second, energy production is a boon to the economy, supporting more than 9.8 million jobs and supplying affordable power for homes, hospitals, manufacturing, and transportation. But for too many local communities, energy on public lands has been more of a missed opportunity and has failed to include local consultation and partnership.

"And, lastly, achieving American energy independence will strengthen our national security by reducing our reliance on foreign oil and allowing us to assist our allies. As a military commander, I saw how the power of the American economy and American energy defeated our adversaries around the world. Under President Trump's leadership, we will once again develop our resources and use them as a diplomatic force to keep prices low and Americans safe."

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-07T16:07:47-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: New 5-Year Report Shows 101.6 Million Americans Participated in Hunting, Fishing, & Wildlife Activities
Received: 2017-09-07T16:08:32-04:00



Date: September 7, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

New 5-Year Report Shows 101.6 Million Americans Participated in Hunting, Fishing & Wildlife Activities

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Survey Preliminary Findings Show Importance of Increasing Access to Public Lands

WASHINGTON The U.S. Department of the Interior announced a new report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that shows that 101.6 million Americans — 40 percent of the U.S. population 16 years old and older — participated in wildlife-related activities in 2016, such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife-watching.

The survey illustrates gains in wildlife watching — particularly around the home — and fishing, with moderate declines in the number of hunters nationally. The findings reflect a continued interest in engaging in the outdoors. These activities are drivers behind an economic powerhouse, where participants spent \$156 billion — the most in the last 25 years, adjusted for inflation.

“This report absolutely underscores the need to increase public access to public lands across the United States,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “Hunting and fishing are a part of the American heritage. As a kid who grew up hunting and fishing on public lands who later took my own kids out on the same land, I know how important it is to expand access for future generations. Many folks east of the Mississippi River rely on friends with large acreages or pay high rates for hunting and fishing clubs. This makes access to wildlife refuges and other public lands more important.”

On his first day in office, Secretary Zinke reversed an order that would have banned lead ammo and tackle on National Wildlife Refuge lands, and he began the process of expanding hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands across the Department.

In August, the Secretary announced a proposal to expand of hunting and fishing opportunities at 10 national wildlife refuges, and he announced the initial stages of a plan to acquire land to make the Bureau of Land Management Sabinoso Wilderness Area accessible for the first time ever to hunters, hikers, and wildlife watchers.

In addition, Secretary Zinke recently made recommendations to President Trump on 27 national monuments that call for changes to some that, while still protecting the land, would also protect and expand public access to that land for citizens who want to hunt, fish, and hike and experience the joy and beauty of these special places.

The survey, the 13th in a series conducted nearly every five years since 1955, shows that the most substantial increases in participation involve wildlife-watching observing and photographing wildlife. The report indicates these activities surged 20 percent from 2011 to 2016, from 71.8 million to 86 million participants during that time. Expenditures by wildlife watchers also rose sharply 28 percent between 2011 and 2016, from \$59.1 billion to \$75.9 billion. Around-the-home wildlife-watching increased 18 percent from 2011, from 68.6 million in 2011 to 81.1 million participants in 2016. More modest gains were made for away-from-home wildlife watchers: 5 percent increase from 2011 to 2016, from 22.5 million to 23 million participants.

More Americans also went fishing. The report indicates an 8 percent increase in angling participation since 2011, from 33.1 million anglers to 35.8 million in 2016. The greatest increases in participation 10 percent were seen in the Great Lakes area. Total expenditures by anglers nationwide rose 2 percent from 2011 to 2016, from \$45 billion to \$46.1 billion.

Hunting participation dropped by about 2 million participants, but still remained strong at 11.5 million hunters. Total expenditures by hunters declined 29 percent from 2011 to 2016, from \$36.3 billion to \$25.6 billion. However, expenditures for related items such as taxidermy and camping equipment experienced a 27-percent uptick, and hunting trip-related expenses increased 15 percent.

Regarding the decrease in participation in hunting, Zinke said: "Hunters and anglers are at the backbone of American conservation, so the more sportsmen and women we have, the better off our wildlife will be. Some of our wildlife refuges have great mentored hunting programs. I'd like to see these programs replicated and expanded across the country, and reach into areas where kids don't traditionally get the opportunity to hunt, fish, and connect with wildlife. Some of my best family time growing up and raising my own kids was hunting an elk, enjoying a pheasant, or reeling in a rainbow. These are the memories and traditions I want to share with future generations."

"No one does more for our wildlife and or wild places than hunters. Any decline in hunting numbers, real or perceived, is of great concern since hunting provides the lion's share of funding for nationwide conservation work thanks to excise taxes on firearms, ammunition and archery

equipment that garner more than \$1.6 annually,” **said David Allen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation president and CEO.** “The RMEF remains committed to growing and ensuring the future of our hunting heritage as well as elk, other wildlife and their habitat.”

This year’s survey also gathered two new categories of data: archery and target shooting. Findings show there are more than 32 million target shooters using firearms and 12.4 million people engaged in archery, not including hunting.

“Hunters and anglers form the foundation of wildlife conservation in the United States, consistently generating more funding for habitat and wildlife management than any other source,” **said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan.** “Industry, federal, and state fish and wildlife agency initiatives that focus on hunter and angler recruitment, retention and reactivation are crucial to sustaining these conservation dollars and ensuring the next generation of wildlife enthusiasts have the opportunity, access and awareness to pursue these time-honored American traditions.”

“I praise Secretary Zinke for his support of hunting and land access. The hunting and shooting sports community is grateful for an Administration that recognizes the economic, recreational and traditional values of hunting and target shooting,” **said John Frampton, President and CEO of the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports.** “Although the numbers of hunters have declined, we are optimistic they will rebound as a result of

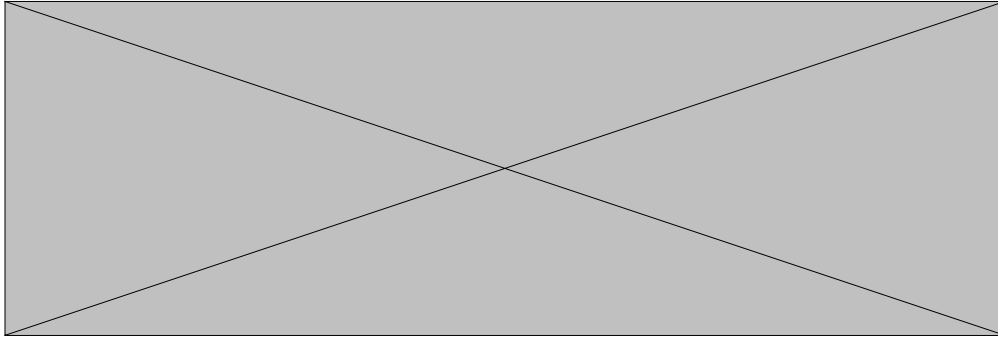
Secretary Zinke's leadership, state wildlife agencies, non-government organizations, and industries working together. Hunting in this country is not only part of our national heritage, it is an important to our country’s economy, as indicated by the expenditures in the survey.”

As a partnership effort with states and national conservation organizations, the survey has become one of the most important sources of information on fish and wildlife recreation in the United States. Federal, state, and private organizations use this detailed information to manage wildlife, market products, and look for trends. Conducted by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the survey is based on a 22,416-household sample surveyed through computer-assisted telephone and in-person interviews.

For more information about the survey and to view the preliminary report, please visit https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/National_Survey.htm.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-07T17:03:07-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Announces Boost to Wetland, Waterfowl Conservation, Access to Public Lands Through Conservation Grants, Federal Duck Stamp Funds
Received: 2017-09-07T17:03:47-04:00



Date: September 7, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces Boost to Wetland, Waterfowl Conservation, Access to Public Lands Through Conservation Grants, Federal Duck Stamp Funds

\$21.9 million approved for wetland conservation projects; \$5.4 million to conserve 2,259 acres on national wildlife refuges and open thousands of additional acres to public hunting

WASHINGTON The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, chaired by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, approved \$21.9 million in grants for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners to conserve, enhance or restore more than 92,000 acres of lands for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other birds in 16 states.

The grants, made through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), will be matched by more than \$45 million in partner funds. NAWCA grants ensure waterfowl and other birds are protected throughout their lifecycles.

“I grew up hunting and fishing and know first-hand how important the outdoors is for our own health, the health of our communities and the health of our economy,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “The projects approved today by the commission will benefit hundreds of wetland and coastal bird species, other wildlife, and their habitats, ensuring we have the ability to pass our shared heritage down to our kids and grandkids.”

Wetlands provide vital habitat for fish, wildlife and a variety of plants. They buffer communities from the effects of storms and floods, and contribute to the \$156 billion hunting, fishing, and

outdoor recreation industry.

NAWCA grants conserve bird populations and wetland habitat, while supporting American traditions such as hunting, fishing, birdwatching, family farming, and cattle ranching. This year's projects include:

- **Prairie Lakes IX Wetland Initiative:** \$1 million. More than 25 partners will help conserve over 2,000 acres of habitat in the Prairie Pothole Region of Iowa through protection, restoration and enhancement activities. All acres will be open to hunting and other recreation.
- **Russell Sage WMA Kennedy Tract Enhancement:** \$999,939 to conserve and enhance 2,672 acres of forested wetlands and marsh in Mississippi and Louisiana, part of a region which hosts 60% of bird species in the continental U.S. Activities include an enhancement project on an active rice farm.
- **Wetlands of the Sacramento Valley II:** \$1 million to restore and enhance 2,314 acres of critical wintering waterfowl habitat in California. Partners include several ranches, sporting clubs, conservation organizations, and a state agency.

The Commission also heard a report on 32 NAWCA small grants, which were approved by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council in February. Small grants are awarded for smaller projects up to \$100,000, to encourage new grantees and partners to carry out smaller-scale conservation work. This year, \$3.6 million in grants were matched by \$10.9 million in partner funds.

NAWCA is the only federal grant program dedicated to the conservation of wetland habitats for migratory birds. Since 1989, funding has advanced the conservation of wetland habitats and their wildlife in all 50 U.S. states, Canada and Mexico while engaging more than 5,700 partners in over 2,700 projects. More information about the grant projects is [available here](#).

The commission also approved more than \$5.4 million from the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to conserve 2,259 acres for six national wildlife refuges. The approvals will improve refuge management capability and enable the Service to open thousands of acres to public waterfowl hunting for the first time. These funds were raised largely through the sale of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Duck Stamps."

"Hunting and fishing underpin the North American model of conservation, founded on principles of sustainable use and access for all," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Sportsmen and women continue to be the engine behind the nation's wildlife conservation efforts, as demonstrated by these Duck Stamp funds. The Duck Stamp puts hunting revenues back into public lands to improve access and enhance outdoor opportunities not just for millions of sportsmen and women, but for all Americans who spend time outdoors."

For every dollar spent on Duck Stamps, 98 cents goes toward the acquisition or lease of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Duck Stamps while required by waterfowl hunters as an annual license are also voluntarily purchased by birders, outdoor enthusiasts and fans of

national wildlife refuges who understand the value of preserving some of the most diverse and important wildlife habitats in our nation.

The following national wildlife refuge proposals were approved for funding:

- Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Maryland: \$663,000
- Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey: \$867,600
- Great River National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri: \$677,500
- San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, Texas: \$1,211,500
- Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, New Jersey: \$440,300
- Swan River National Wildlife Refuge, Montana: \$1,568,000

Since 1934, the Federal Duck Stamp Program has provided more than \$800 million for habitat conservation in the Refuge System.

The FWS is responsible for managing an unparalleled network of lands and waters in the National Wildlife Refuge System, including 566 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts. Refuges offer world-class public recreation, from fishing, hunting and wildlife observation to photography and environmental education. Every state and U.S. territory has at least one national wildlife refuge.

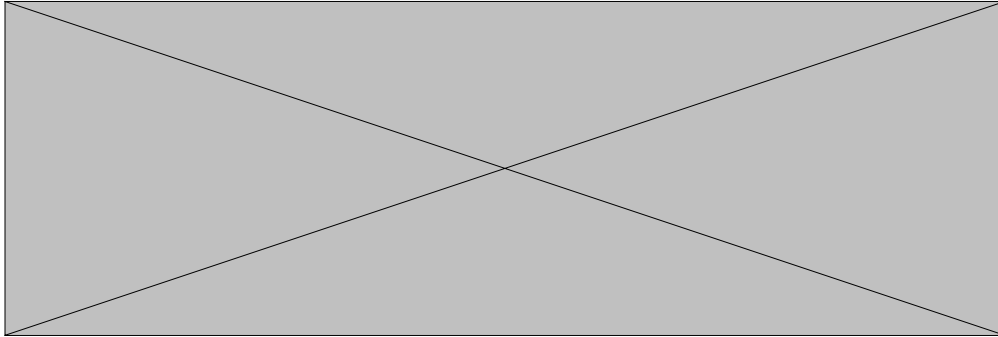
The amounts approved at the meeting are dependent on the passage of the fiscal year 2018 budget.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission is chaired by the Secretary of the Interior. Its members include U.S. Senators Thad Cochran of Mississippi and Martin Heinrich of New Mexico; Representatives Robert J. Wittman of Virginia and Mike Thompson of California; Sonny Perdue, Secretary of Agriculture; and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. The commission has helped in conserving much of this Nation's most important waterfowl habitat and in establishing or enhancing many of our Nation's most popular destinations for waterfowl hunting.

Additional information about North American wetlands and waterfowl conservation can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/birds/>, which offers waterfowl enthusiasts, biologists and agency administrators with the most up-to-date waterfowl habitat and waterfowl population information.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-08T16:10:18-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Encourages Expedited Release of \$223 Million in Advance Payments to the U.S. Virgin Islands
Received: 2017-09-08T16:11:00-04:00



Date: September 8, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Tanya Harris Joshua 202-208-6008
Tanya_Joshua@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Encourages Expedited Release of \$223 Million in Advance Payments to the U.S. Virgin Islands

Follows President Trump's Approval of Disaster Declaration in the Territory

WASHINGTON U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke today announced that Interior will be expediting the rum-cover over advance payment of \$223,925,000 for estimated FY 2018 collections in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump approved and signed a disaster declaration for the U.S. Virgin Islands, which unlocks emergency federal funding for those affected by Hurricane Irma.

"These funds will be critical to operations in the USVI as the Governor and emergency teams work to recover from the impacts of Hurricane Irma," said Secretary Zinke. "The people of the U.S.VI will need all the support they can get."

Adjustments are calculated based upon amounts advanced from rum excise taxes derived from the USVI and collected by the federal government under the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands (48 USC 1541). Under current law, any excise tax collected on USVI manufactured rum imported into the United States is transferred to or "covered-over" to the USVI. The USVI

Government submits its advance estimate of rum excise taxes to the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs on an annual basis so that payment can be made in September of each fiscal year.

Certified rum payments covered over to the USVI in 2016 totaled \$231,498,711. A similar advance payment of \$202,725,000 was made to the USVI in September of last year for fiscal year 2017.

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) executes these responsibilities. OIA's mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-12T13:24:06-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: DOI Royalty Policy Committee Meeting on October 4th - Arrive In Person or Call In
Received: 2017-09-12T13:24:48-04:00
[RoyaltyPolicyCommitteeMeeting Information - Federal Register.pdf](#)

Dear Energy Aficionados,
Below is the press release regarding the new Royalty Policy Committee and it's initial meeting, and it is available for you or someone from your organization to attend in person, view live stream online, or at least call in over the phone (it is a public event).

Wednesday October 4th, 2017
9am to 4pm

Department of the Interior
1849 C St NW
Washington, DC 20240

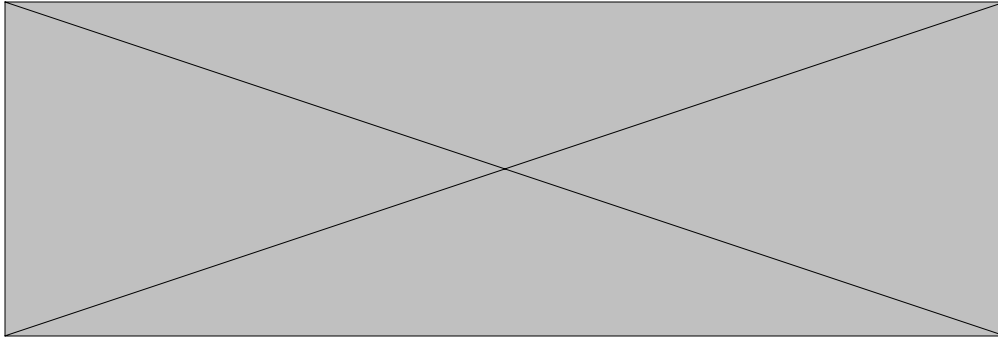
Meeting will be held in the South Penthouse

You may also attend:
via WebEx at: <http://bit.ly/1cR9W6t>
Call in information: (888) 455-2910
passcode: 7741096

Public comments will be allowed; please let me know if you are able to attend.

MAGA,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541



Date: September 1, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Appoints Members to the Royalty Policy Committee, Announces First Meeting

Significant Step Toward Restoring Public Trust, Collaborative Development of Federal Lands

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced the appointment of 20 primary and 18 alternate members to the Department of the Interior's [Royalty Policy Committee](#) (Committee) that will serve a critical role in advising the Secretary on policy and strategies to improve management of the multi-billion dollar, federal and American Indian mineral revenue program. The Committee's first meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4.

"Working closely with the Committee, we will come up with solutions for modernizing the management of public and American Indian assets, while building greater trust and transparency in how we value our nation's public mineral resources," **said Secretary Zinke**. "It's important that the taxpayers and tribes get the full and fair value of traditional and renewable energy produced on public lands and offshore areas."

The Committee may also advise the Secretary on the potential impacts of proposed policies and regulations related to revenue collection from energy and mineral development on public lands, including whether a need exists for regulatory reform. To underscore the Department's commitment to reforming revenue management and royalty collections, the Committee, which may consist of up to 28 members, reflects the diverse perspectives of a wide-range of stakeholders, including representatives of western states and American Indian tribes that produce energy, energy stakeholders, academic groups and the general public, as well as Interior officials. Non-federal members will serve three-year terms.

The Secretary appointed Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy, as Chairman of the Committee. "On behalf of the Secretary, I am committed to aligning this Committee with our continuing drive toward making the Department a better business partner and delivering better results for American taxpayers," **said Chairman DeVito**.

The agenda and meeting materials will be posted on the Committee website at www.doi.gov/rpc.

The meeting is open to members of the public, who may attend in person or view the documents and presentations under discussion via WebEx at <http://bit.ly/1cR9W6t> and listen to the proceedings at telephone number 1-888-455-2910 or International Toll number 210-839-8953 (passcode: 7741096). The public will be invited to make statements during the meeting and file written statements with the Committee for consideration. To submit written comments, contact Kim Oliver at rpc@ios.doi.gov or mail your written comments to Royalty Policy Committee, Attn: Kim Oliver, 1849 C Street NW MS 5134, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Secretary Zinke signed a charter in March of this year establishing the Royalty Policy Committee to review revenues collected from oil and gas drilling, coal mining and renewable energy production on federal lands and offshore areas, and provide regular advice to the Secretary on the fair market value of and collection of revenues from these Federal and Indian mineral and energy leases. Interested persons were invited in the Federal Register to submit their names under the process outlined in the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The Secretary appointed the following non-federal members to the Committee:

States

Primary Members

Andrew McKee, State of Wyoming

Brent Sanford, State of North Dakota

John Crowther, State of Alaska

William Darby, State of Texas

Clinton Carter, State of Alabama

John Andrews, State of Utah

Alternate Members

Hans Hunt, State of Wyoming

Lynn Helms, State of North Dakota

Daniel Saddler, State of Alaska

Jerry Strickland, State of Texas

Mark Edwards, State of New Mexico

Shawn Thomas, State of Montana

Tribes

Primary Members

Russell Begaye, Navajo Nation

Christopher Adam Red, Southern Ute Indian Tribe

Charles Robertson, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Everett Waller, Osage Minerals Council

Alternate Members

Bidtah Becker, Navajo Nation

Leslie Shakespeare, Eastern Shoshone Tribe

Neil McCaleb, Chickasaw Nation

Harry Barnes, Blackfeet Nation

Mineral/Energy Stakeholders

Primary Members

Randall Luthi, National Ocean Industries Association

Patrick Noah, ConocoPhillips Company

Estella Alvarado, Anadarko Petroleum Corporation

John Sweeney, VWR Corporation

Matthew Adams, Cloud Peak Energy

Marissa Mitchell, Intersect Power

Alternate Members

Albert Modiano, US Oil & Gas Association

Kevin Simpson, Shell Exploration and
Production Co.

Greg Morby, Chevron North America E&P

Kathleen Sgamma, Western Energy Alliance

Gabrielle Gerholt, Concho Resources

Jennifer Cadena Fortier, Incremental Oil & Gas
USA

Academia and Public Interest Groups

Primary Members

Roderick Eggert, Colorado School of Mines

Van Romero, New Mexico Institute of Mining and
Technology

Monte Mills, University of Montana School of Law

Daniel Ruzs, Wood Mackenzie

Alternate Members

Graham Davis, Colorado School of Mines

Kwame Awuah-Offei, Missouri University of
Science and Technology

The Federal Register Notice announcing the first meeting of the Committee can be accessed via the web at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/>. Additional information about the Committee and meeting materials can be found on the Committee website.

###

Royalty Policy Committee; Public Meeting

A Notice by the Interior Department on 09/01/2017

DOCUMENT DETAILS

Printed version:

PDF (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-09-01/pdf/2017-18635.pdf>)

Publication Date:

09/01/2017 (/documents/2017/09/01)

Agencies:

Department of the Interior (<https://www.federalregister.gov/agencies/interior-department>)
Office of the Secretary

Dates:

The Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2017, in Washington, DC, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Document Type:

Notice

Document Citation:

82 FR 41646

Page:

41646 (1 page)

Agency/Docket Number:

Docket No. ONRR-2012-0003, DS63600000 DR2000000.PMN000 178D0102R2

Document Number:

2017-18635

DOCUMENT DETAILS

PUBLISHED DOCUMENT

AGENCY:

Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Interior.

ACTION:

Notice.

SUMMARY:

This notice announces the first meeting of the Royalty Policy Committee (Committee). This meeting is open to the public.

DATES:

The Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2017, in Washington, DC, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES:

The Committee meeting will be held in the South Penthouse of the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building located at 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240. Members of the public may attend in person or view documents and presentations under discussion via WebEx at <http://bit.ly/1cR9W6t> (<http://bit.ly/1cR9W6t>) and listen to the proceedings at telephone number 1-888-455-2910 or International Toll number 210-839-8953 (passcode: 7741096).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Kim Oliver, Office of Natural Resources Revenue at (202) 513-0370 or email to rpc@ios.doi.gov (<https://mail.google.com/mail/?view=cm&fs=1&tf=1&to=rpc@ios.doi.gov>).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The U.S. Department of the Interior established the Committee on April 21, 2017, under the authority of the Secretary of the Interior and regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The purpose of the Committee is to ensure that the public receives the full value of the natural resources produced from Federal lands. The duties of the Committee are solely advisory in nature. More information about the Committee, including its charter, is available at www.doi.gov/rpc (<http://www.doi.gov/rpc>).

Meeting Agenda: At the October 4, 2017 meeting, the Committee may discuss and agree on first-year priority issues and establish goals; adopt a timeline for future meetings and actions to be taken in order to achieve Committee goals ; and finalize subcommittee tasks and membership. The final agenda and meeting materials will be posted on the Committee Web site at www.doi.gov/rpc (<http://www.doi.gov/rpc>). All Committee meetings are open to the public.

Whenever possible, we encourage those participating by telephone to gather in conference rooms in order to share teleconference lines. Please plan to dial into the meeting and/or log into WebEx at least 10-15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time in order to avoid possible technical difficulties. We will accommodate individuals with special needs whenever possible. If you require special assistance (such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired), please notify Interior staff in advance of the meeting at 202-513-0370 or email to rpc@ios.doi.gov (<https://mail.google.com/mail/?view=cm&fs=1&tf=1&to=rpc@ios.doi.gov>).

We will post the minutes from these proceedings on the Committee Web site at www.doi.gov/rpc (<http://www.doi.gov/rpc>) and they will also be available for public inspection and copying at our office at the Stewart Lee Udall Department of the Interior Building in Washington, DC, by contacting Interior staff via email to rpc@ios.doi.gov (<https://mail.google.com/mail/?view=cm&fs=1&tf=1&to=rpc@ios.doi.gov>) or via telephone at 202-513-0370.

Members of the public may choose to make a public comment during the designated time for public comments. Members of the public may also choose to submit written comments by mailing them to the Office of Natural Resources Revenue, Attention: RPC, 1849 C Street NW., MS 5134, Washington DC 20240. You also can email your written comments for Kim Oliver to rpc@ios.doi.gov (<https://mail.google.com/mail/?view=cm&fs=1&tf=1&to=rpc@ios.doi.gov>). Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record.

Public Disclosure Of Comments: Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.

Dated: August 28, 2017.

Vincent DeVito,

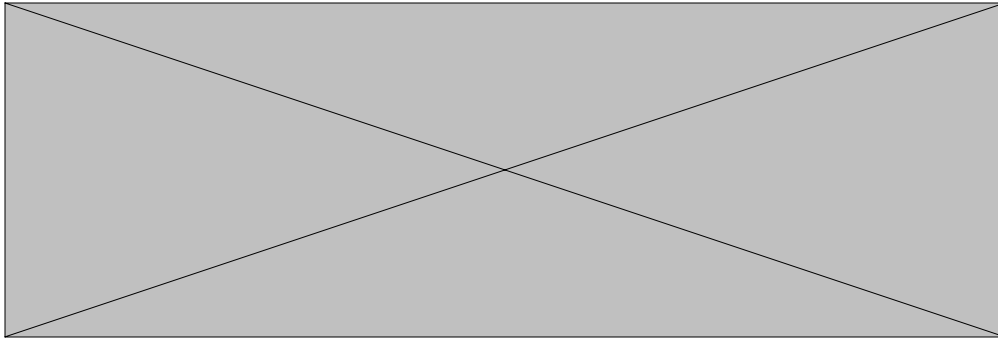
Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy.

[FR Doc. 2017-18635 (/a/2017-18635) Filed 8-31-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-P

PUBLISHED DOCUMENT

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-13T09:30:58-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Directs Interior Bureaus to Take Aggressive Action to Prevent Wildfires
Received: 2017-09-13T09:31:46-04:00



Date: September 12, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Directs Interior Bureaus to Take Aggressive Action to Prevent Wildfires

WASHINGTON Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke directed all Department of the Interior bureaus, superintendents, and land managers at all levels to adopt more aggressive practices, using the full authority of the Department, to prevent and combat the spread of catastrophic wildfires through robust fuels reduction and pre-suppression techniques.

This year-to-date, 47,700 wildfires have burned 8 million acres across the country, with the majority of the devastation in the states of California and Montana. High-profile fires in Yosemite and Glacier National Parks have caught national headlines, however millions of acres of forest and grassland have burned in recent months.

"This Administration will take a serious turn from the past and will proactively work to prevent forest fires through aggressive and scientific fuels reduction management to save lives, homes, and wildlife habitat. It is well settled that the steady accumulation and thickening of vegetation in areas that have historically burned at frequent intervals exacerbates fuel conditions and often leads to larger and higher-intensity fires," **said Secretary Zinke**. "These fires are more damaging, more costly, and threaten the safety and security of both the public and firefighters. In recent fire reviews, I have heard this described as 'a new normal.' It is unacceptable that we should be satisfied with the status quo. We must be innovative and where new authorities are needed, we will work with our colleagues in Congress to craft management solutions that will benefit our public lands for generations to come."

The Secretary is directing managers and superintendents of units that have burnable vegetation to address the threat of fire in all of their activities, and to use the full range of existing authorities, to reduce fuels.

Bryan Rice, Director of the Office of Wildland Fire, said, "It is critical to fully consider the benefits of fuels reduction in the everyday management activities that we carry out for our public land management objectives, such as clearing along roadsides, around visitor use areas like campgrounds and trails, near employee housing areas, and within administrative site areas subject to wildfire."

The Department has lost historic structures in wildfires like Glacier National Park's historic Sperry Chalet lodge. In an effort to help prevent future losses, the Secretary is also directing increased protection of Interior assets that are in wildfire prone areas, following the Firewise guidance, writing: "If we ask local communities to 'be safer from the start' and meet Firewise standards, we should be the leaders of and the model for 'Firewise-friendly' standards in our planning, development, and maintenance of visitor-service and administrative facilities."

"I welcome Secretary Zinke's new directive and his attention to the catastrophic fires taking place in many western states," **said Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.** "Treating our landscapes mitigates wildfire risk, increases firefighter safety, and makes our forests and rangelands healthy and resilient. We can no longer delay the implementation of this important work."

House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop said, "We must ensure our land management agencies have the tools and resources they need to protect communities and landscapes from catastrophic wildfire. Over the long term, Congress and the Administration must work together to reverse the sorry state of our federal forests and grasslands. I'm heartened to finally have an Administration that's focused on actively managing and addressing the on-the-ground conditions that are contributing to our historic wildfire crisis. I hope to build on this by enacting comprehensive legislation to restore the health and resiliency of federal lands."

"If we don't start managing our forests, the forests are going to start managing us," **said Montana Senator Steve Daines.** "The fires burning across Montana are a catastrophe, and we need all available resources to combat this threat. I applaud Secretary Zinke's action to focus resources on attacking wildfires."

"I applaud Secretary Zinke's effort to thin the threat. If we can reduce the fuel loads in our forests and rangelands we will provide our fire fighters more defensible space to do their jobs," **said Idaho Senator James Risch.** "We need bold actions like this not just for the hurricanes in the south and east but also to avert the devastation caused by the wildfires in the west."

"More than 50 million acres in the United States are currently at risk for catastrophic wildfire. That is why we must act to prevent calamitous fires. Management actions taken by Secretary Zinke today will not completely stop the risk, but it is an important step forward in our fight to turn unhealthy, overgrown, and infested forests into thriving, healthy ecosystems," **said Congressman Bruce Westerman.** "I commend Secretary Zinke for recognizing this emergency situation and taking steps to address prevent further loss of life and property due to these preventable, catastrophic wildfires. I am committed to working with him and my colleagues in Congress to find a permanent solution to this problem that emphasizes active forest management as the first line of defense against catastrophic wildfires."

With Western Fire season reaching its natural peak in September, the National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) elevated the National Fire Preparedness Level to “5”, the highest level NMAC declares, on August 10, 2017. Above normal major-fire activity continues to be observed across portions of the Pacific Northwest, Northern Rockies, northern Great Basin, and northern California. Fuel moisture levels and fire danger indices in these areas are at near-record to record levels for severity. Drier and warmer than average conditions across the central Great Basin and Southern California are allowing for the fine fuels to become more receptive to fire activity.

See the full memo below.

Memorandum

To: Assistant Secretaries
Heads of Bureaus and Offices
Regional Directors
State Directors
Superintendents
Refuge Managers
District Managers
Field Office Managers

From: Secretary

Subject: Wildland Fire Directive

In June of this year, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue and I gave direction on a broad strategy for addressing wildfire by managing our firefighting assets in the most efficient way possible. (2017 Direction to Wildland Fire Leadership Memorandum). As we anticipated, 2017 is challenging our wildland firefighting capabilities with a significant number of fires and acres burned to date. Nonetheless, I am pleased that you have taken to heart our direction to work together more effectively and to seek more opportunities to work with state and local partners. Secretary Perdue and I heard in Montana from local fire chiefs and county officials about the degree to which our teams have “collaborated from Day 1.” This collaboration has already made a difference, and I thank you.

It is well settled that the steady accumulation of vegetation in areas that have historically burned at frequent intervals exacerbates fuel conditions and often leads to larger and higher-intensity fires. These fires are more damaging, more costly, and threaten the safety and security of both the public and firefighters. In recent fire reviews, I have heard this described as “a new normal.” However, that does not mean that we should continue to address our challenges in the same ways that we have in the past. We must think differently about the threat of wildfire and how we manage public lands in ways that integrate fuels reduction where it makes sense into all our activities.

To our line officials the field, district and refuge managers, and park and agency superintendents I want to thank you for your response in deploying key staff to the wildfire

emergencies (and now hurricanes) across the Nation. As the public continues to visit their lands in great numbers, we cannot await a weeks-off, season-ending event to think about how best to address the potential threat of catastrophic wildfires. Even as fires continue to burn, I ask that you think about a different way of managing public lands to better incorporate fuels management into your resource-management planning.

One of our Federal fire strategic goals is to ensure that landscapes and communities across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accord with management objectives. A key part of implementing such a strategy is carrying out activities that address vegetation composition and structure and also alters fuel loads to reduce hazards. Such methods of fuel treatment safeguard public and firefighter safety and protect our landscapes, scenic vistas, and natural and historic objects; our neighbors, nearby communities, and infrastructure; and our own administrative and visitor service assets and facilities.

For our managers and superintendents of units that have burnable vegetation, I am directing you to think about fire in a new and aggressive way. Address the threat of fire in all of your activities, rather than engaging only the fire staff. All land managers across the Department of the Interior (Department) have a responsibility, using the full range of existing authorities, to consider using fuels management to achieve their programs' and units' resource- and land-management objectives. Where dead and dying trees have become hazards that can carry fire across our boundaries or into areas that are a threat to values-at-risk, we must move aggressively to minimize that threat. If we don't have the people on hand, we have authorities to contract it to capable resource managers in the private sector. It makes little sense to be thinning to protect structures when we see flames on the ridge and smoke in the air fuel management is more effective when undertaken before fires break out.

Where our roads have narrowed over the years as vegetation and trees have encroached, even into ditches and onto shoulders, we should be clearing this vegetation away. In our administrative and employee housing areas where we have allowed the natural landscape to grow closer to our structures, we should remove the fire threat to create defensible space. If we ask local communities to "be safer from the start" and meet Firewise standards, we should be *the* leaders of and the model for "Firewise-friendly" standards in our planning, development, and maintenance of visitor-service and administrative facilities.

I will be asking our program officials at the Department level to call for appropriate reviews and identification of resource needs and data gaps. Each of you should ensure your fire management plans are up to date and include the identified needs for a robust fuels-management program to support wildfire prevention and suppression efforts to be developed and implemented by both fire and other resource staff.

I ask you to do the following: 1) use our existing policies more aggressively; 2) think differently about how those policies may be applied; 3) look for opportunities to partner with adjacent agencies, state and local governments, tribes, and private landowners to maximize resources; 4) look carefully at your existing management plans and ask if you are doing all you can today to address the threats of tomorrow; and 5) ensure that our landscapes are restored and maintained to meet our mission.

In our June memo, Secretary Perdue and I emphasized our implementation of Federal wildland fire policy and its emphasis on firefighter and public safety. That emphasis remains.

We must also identify ways to address the realities we face in a safer and more effective manner. We simply cannot afford to continue business as usual. We must do everything we can to address the steady accumulation of fuels on our Nation's public lands and the resulting increased threats from catastrophic wildfires.

You and your staff are critical to making the changes necessary to better address the challenges we will face together in the future.

NOTE: Heads of bureaus and offices shall distribute this memorandum to all regional and/or state directors, district managers, field office managers, superintendents, and/or refuge managers.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-14T14:46:50-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: *In Case You Missed It* Secretary Zinke on Wildfires
Received: 2017-09-14T14:56:14-04:00

****In Case You Missed It****

Secretary Zinke takes Strong Stance on Wildfire Prevention

TV Hits:

- **Fox Business: Secretary Zinke joins Stuart Varney**
- **Fox Business: Secretary Zinke Joins Lou Dobbs on Fox Business**
- **Fox News: Secretary Zinke joins 'Fox and Friends'**

Print:

Associated Press: Zinke Directs More Aggressive Approach to Prevent Wildfires

"As of Tuesday, 62 large fires were burning across nine western states, with 20 fires in Montana and 17 in Oregon, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. Nearly half the large fires in the west reported zero acreage gains on Monday, helping firefighters across the west make progress towards containing them, the agency said." (Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the **Washington Post** (9/12, Daly), the **Brownsville (TX) Herald** (9/12, Daly), the **Minneapolis Star Tribune** (9/5, Daly), the **New Canaan (CT) News**(9/12, Daly), the **New Haven (CT) Register** (9/12, Daly), **Philly (PA)** (9/12, Daly), the **Washington Times** (9/12, Daly), the **Daily Mail** (9/12, Daly), the **Japan Times** (9/12), and **KHQ-TV Spokane (WA)** Spokane, WA (9/12) *And many other outlets*)

Associated Press: US West's Wildfires Spark Calls to Thin Tree-Choked Forests

"Wildfires that are blackening the American West in one of the nation's worst fire seasons have ignited calls, including from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, to thin forests that have become so choked with trees that they are at "powder keg levels. The destruction has exposed old frictions between environmentalists and those who want to see logging accelerated, and it's triggered a push to reassess how lands should be managed to prevent severe wildfires."(Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the **Bristol (VA) Herald Courier** (9/13, Selsky), the **Daily Mail** (9/13, Selsky), the **Minneapolis Star Tribune** (8/31, Selsky), **Philly (PA)** (9/13, Selsky), the **Washington Times** (9/13, Selsky), the **Washington Post** (9/13, Andrew Selsky |, Ap), **ABC News** (9/13, Selsky), **Fox Business** (9/13, Selsky), and **Santa Fe New Mexican** (9/13, Selsky). Also reporting are the **Billings (MT) Gazette** (9/13), the **Missoula Current (MT)** (9/13, Devlin), **CBS News** (9/13), and the **Daily Caller** (9/13, Pearce).)

E&E News: Zinke orders 'aggressive' tree, brush cutting to prevent fires

"With Western wildfires raging, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke yesterday directed federal land managers to "think about fire in a new and aggressive way," and said agencies and bureaus should focus on speeding the thinning of dead trees and other forest fuel. In a memo to Interior leaders and managers, Zinke outlined plans to focus on fuel management of trees and vegetation, as well as maintenance of fire roads and the "defensible area" around federally owned structures."

Washington Times: Zinke moves to fight wildfires by clearing trees in break with hands-off forestry policy

“Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke moved Tuesday to combat the spread of catastrophic wildfires by clearing more trees, a policy switch that represents a dramatic departure from nearly three decades of hands-off management in the federal forests. He released a department-wide memo calling on supervisors and managers to “think about fire in a new and aggressive way” by clearing the dead and dying trees and vegetation that have overrun the federal forests and heightened wildfire danger.”

CBS News: More damaging, more costly" wildfires scorch parts of western U.S. and Canada

“Wildfire smoke and the danger of new fires have prompted federal wildlife managers to postpone the annual roundup at the National Bison Range in western Montana.”

KTVZ OREGON: Zinke directs Interior Dept. to aggressively reduce wildfire fuels

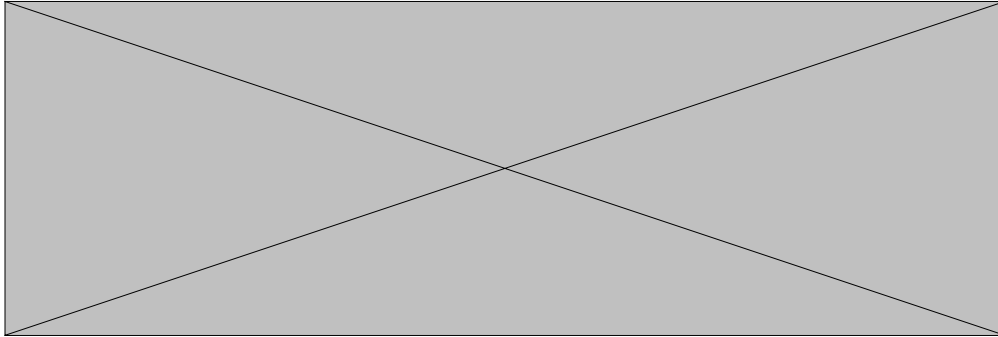
“Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke directed all Department of the Interior bureaus, superintendents, and land managers at all levels Tuesday to adopt more aggressive practices, using the full authority of the department, to prevent and combat the spread of catastrophic wildfires through robust fuels reduction and pre-suppression techniques”

WILDFIRE TALKING POINTS:

- Secretary Zinke grew up in the heart of America's timberlands in Montana - which is currently home to some of the strongest and deadliest wildfires this season.
- Secretary Zinke's directive applies to all land management bureaus and services within the department that have burnable vegetation.
- The directive is aimed at restoring proven forest management and preemptive fuels reduction practices in order to help prevent catastrophic wildfires.
- Dead and dying timber from previous fires and disease infestation plagues our forests and makes them more prone to catastrophic fires. By thinning these fuels, fires do not gain in intensity and grow as quickly. This makes them safer and more manageable to battle.
- The Trump Administration is taking aggressive and preemptive measures to prevent wildfires and combat their spread through active fuels management versus the previous administration's more "naturalistic" approach. The naturalistic approach allowed fuels to build up and forests to thicken, making them more prone to wildfires that are more difficult and dangerous to suppress.
- The directive also orders bureaus and services to protect structures and assets like visitor centers, lodges, and infrastructure by thinning the urban-wildland interface.
- This order does not allow commercial timber harvests in National Parks. It does however order preemptive fuels management, like what already happens in parks like Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park.

####

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-14T16:29:19-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Applauds Senate Confirmation of Doug Domenech as Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas
Received: 2017-09-14T16:38:22-04:00



Date: September 14, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Applauds Senate Confirmation of Doug Domenech as Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today applauded the Senate's confirmation of Interior Department veteran Douglas William Domenech as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas. Domenech was confirmed by the U.S. Senate yesterday and will be sworn-in in the coming days. President Trump nominated him in June.

"I am excited to officially welcome Doug back to the Department to lead the Administration's initiatives in the insular areas," said Secretary Zinke. "Doug's confirmation could not come soon enough for the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico who are rebuilding in the wake of Hurricane Irma. I'm excited to put him to work for them and all our brothers and sisters across the insular areas. I would also like to thank Nik Pula, who now resumes his duties as the Director of Insular Affairs for his time and service as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas."

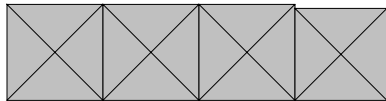
"It is a great responsibility and honor to accept this important position which helps bridge the distance and raise awareness about the insular areas to decision makers in Washington, D.C.," said Domenech. "Islands governments face the basic challenge of higher costs and limited resources as they serve the people. Recent catastrophic events surrounding Hurricane Irma only heighten these challenges. It is critically important that our neighbors and fellow Americans feel confident that we in the federal government can help address these challenges. I look forward to working with leadership from each of these islands to find innovative solutions to the challenges we all face together."

The Office of the Assistant Secretary Insular Areas coordinates federal policy for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In addition, the Office is responsible for administering and overseeing U.S. Compact grant assistance to the freely associated states of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

Domenech, whose family is from Puerto Rico, holds a BS in Forestry and Wildlife Management from Virginia Tech University and currently serves as Senior Advisor to Interior Secretary Zinke. Previously, he served as the Secretary of Natural Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia overseeing six state environmental, recreation, and historic resource agencies. During the George W. Bush Administration, Domenech served as White House Liaison and Deputy Chief of Staff to Secretaries Norton and Kempthorne. In addition, he served as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas. Domenech currently serves as the Secretary's appointee to the Advisory Council of the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico.

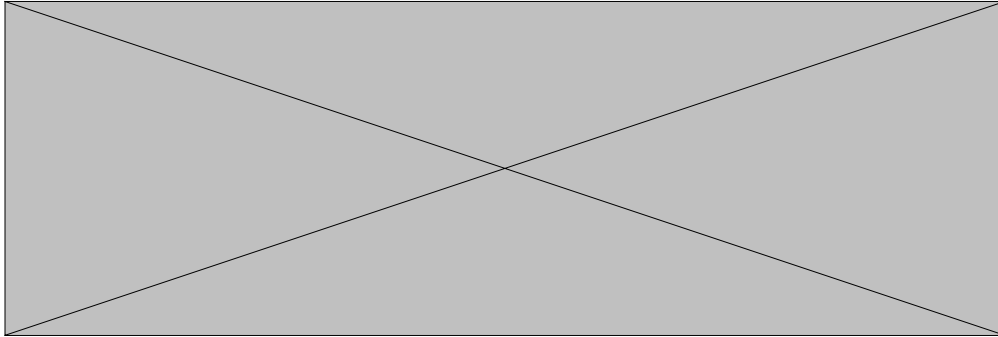
Domenech's nomination was endorsed by four Governors of the U.S. territories; U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp, American Samoa Governor Lolo Moliga, Guam Governor Eddie Calvo, and CNMI Governor Ralph Torres.

###



[Update subscription](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#)

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-15T11:48:12-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke signs Secretarial Order to Support Sportsmen & Enhance Wildlife Conservation
Received: 2017-09-15T11:48:56-04:00



Date: September 15, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke signs Secretarial Order to Support Sportsmen & Enhance Wildlife Conservation

Order seeks to expand access on public and private lands and to promote hunting and fishing among youth, veterans, and minority communities

WASHINGTON Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed [Secretarial Order 3356](#), which will support and expand hunting and fishing, enhance conservation stewardship, improve wildlife management, and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans. Secretarial Order 3356 is an extension of Secretarial Order 3347, issued on Zinke's first day, March 2, 2017. That order identified a slate of actions for the restoration of the American sportsmen conservation ethic, which was established by President Theodore Roosevelt.

The new order comes days after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a survey that found there are 2.2 million fewer hunters in America now than in 2011. The order seeks to improve wildlife management and conservation, increase access to public lands for hunting, shooting, and fishing, and puts a new and a greater emphasis on recruiting and retaining new sportsmen conservationists, with a focus on engaging youths, veterans, minorities, and other communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation activities.

“Hunting and fishing is a cornerstone of the American tradition and hunters and fishers of America are the backbone of land and wildlife conservation,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “The more people we can get outdoors, the better things will be for our public lands. As someone who grew up hunting and fishing on our public lands - packing bologna sandwiches and heading out at 4AM with my dad - I know how important it is to expand access to public lands for future generations. Some of my best memories are hunting deer or reeling in rainbow trout back home in Montana, and I think every American should be able to have that experience.

“Today’s Secretarial Order is the latest example of how the Trump Administration is actively moving to support hunting and other forms of outdoor recreation on public lands. This means finding ways to expand hunting and fishing on public lands, improving access, and taking necessary actions to facilitate the enjoyment of these time-honored activities by any member of our society.”

Secretarial Order 3356 directs bureaus within the department to:

- Within 120 days produce a plan to expand access for hunting and fishing on BLM, USFWS and NPS land.
- Amend national monument management plans to ensure the public's right to hunt, fish and target shoot.
- Expand educational outreach programs for underrepresented communities such as veterans, minorities, and youth.
- In a manner that respects the rights and privacy of the owners of non-public lands, identify lands within their purview where access to Department lands, particularly access for hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other forms of outdoor recreation, is currently limited (including areas of Department land that may be impractical or effectively impossible to access via public roads or trails under current conditions, but where there may be an opportunity to gain access through an easement, right-of-way, or acquisition), and provide a report detailing such lands to the Deputy Secretary.
- Within 365 days, cooperate, coordinate, create, make available, and continuously update online a single “one stop” Department site database of available opportunities for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting on Department lands.
- Improve wildlife management through collaboration with state, Tribal, territorial, and conservation partners.

"On behalf of the 5 million hunters, recreational shooters and members of the NRA, we commend Secretary Zinke for continuing to follow Teddy Roosevelt's sportsman legacy by opening more land and water to hunting and target shooting," **said Chris Cox, Executive Director of the National Rifle Association.** "In the past, management plans for federal lands have been put in place to ban hunting and shooting. Sportsmen and women can now breathe a sigh of relief that those days are over. This administration values access to public lands for sportsmen and we commend them for it."

“For too long, sportsmen’s access to our federal lands has been restricted, with lost opportunity replacing the ability to enjoy many of our best outdoor spaces. This extension to Secretarial Order 3356 will go a long way to reversing that trend and help grow the next generation of hunters, fishermen, and recreational shooters,” **said Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.** “I appreciate this new order and am committed to working with Secretary Zinke and my colleagues to do everything we can to expand and enhance access to our federal lands for all Alaskans, and all Americans, so that we can continue our rich sportsmen’s heritage.”

“Restoring wildlife habitat and expanding opportunities for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor

recreation will help increase wildlife populations and connect millions of Americans with our nation's natural treasures," **said Collin O'Mara, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation.** "Secretary Zinke's order demonstrates his commitment to collaborate closely with conservation organizations and state agencies to achieve these critical conservation outcomes. We look forward to working with the Secretary, the Department, and our conservation partners to recover America's wildlife and connect every American with nature."

"Secretary Zinke's action today follows in the great tradition of President Teddy Roosevelt and recognizes the central role that hunters play in conservation and successful wildlife management," **said Lawrence G. Keane, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.** "The National Shooting Sports Foundation is deeply grateful to Secretary Zinke for the historic Secretarial Order that he signed today. NSSF has worked closely with, and in support of, Interior Department officials on these priorities and other positive steps announced today. Today's action will serve to benefit current and future generations for years to come."

"Americans depend on reliable and affordable access to public lands to participate in outdoor sporting and recreational activities," **said Chairman Rob Bishop.** "Unfortunately, these lands are not being managed to facilitate consistent, open access. Today's Secretarial Order to increase these opportunities strengthens the foundation of our country's hunting and fishing heritage and helps ensure that sportsmen and women continue to enjoy access to our federal lands and waterways."

"For many Americans, hunting and fishing wouldn't be possible without public land and the access it provides for these pastimes. Secretarial Order 3356 represents a renewed commitment to working with our nation's sportsmen and women to ensure that our legacy of hunting and fishing-driven conservation continues to stand the test of time," **said Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation President Jeff Crane.** "We applaud Secretary Zinke for recognizing the critically important role that expanded federal land access plays in achieving this goal."

"We support Secretary Zinke's order to expand opportunities for hunters and anglers on BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service and Park Service lands as well as on private lands," **said David Allen, President and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.** "Access to quality wildlife habitat remains one of the most significant factors impacting hunting and fishing participation throughout the country. This order will help ensure sportsmen and women continue to have opportunities for quality recreational experiences on public lands and potentially private lands."

"Generations of Idahoans, including me, have passed on their love of hunting, fishing, and shooting sports to their children and grandchildren," **said Senator James Risch, Co-Chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus.** "I applaud Secretary Zinke's quick action to protect those fundamental rights and expand access for sportsmen and women across the country."

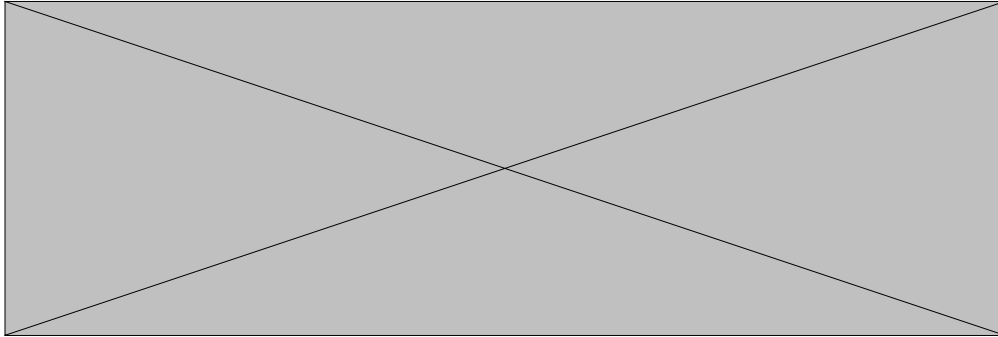
On his first day in office, Secretary Zinke reversed an order that would have banned lead ammo and tackle on National Wildlife Refuge lands, and he began the process of expanding hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands across the Department.

In August, the Secretary announced a proposal to expand hunting and fishing opportunities at 10 national wildlife refuges, and he announced the initial stages of a plan to acquire land to make the Bureau of Land Management Sabinoso Wilderness Area accessible for the first time ever to hunters, hikers, and wildlife watchers.

In addition, Secretary Zinke recently made recommendations to President Trump on 27 national monuments that call for changes to some that, while still protecting the land, would also protect and expand public access to that land for citizens who want to hunt, fish, and hike and experience the joy and beauty of these special places.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-15T15:08:04-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Announces \$62 Million Construction Contract on Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project
Received: 2017-09-15T15:08:45-04:00



Date: September 15, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
Marlon Duke, Reclamation 801-524-3774

Interior Announces \$62 Million Construction Contract on Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project

WASHINGTON The Department of the Interior announced today that the Bureau of Reclamation is awarding a construction contract of almost \$62 million for part of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project in New Mexico to increase the supply of clean drinking water to surrounding communities.

“This contract is a big step toward completing the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, which is a top priority as it fits into the administration's commitment to improving infrastructure,” U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke said. “The project is critical to providing a much-needed, long-term, sustainable water supply for people on the Navajo and Jicarilla Apache reservations and the City of Gallup. It is also the cornerstone of our commitments under the Navajo Nation San Juan River Water Rights Settlement.”

The contract was awarded to Oscar Renda Contracting Inc. of Roanoke, Texas. It covers Block 9-11, an integral component of the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project. When completed, the entire project will consist of approximately 300 miles of pipeline, two water treatment plants, 19 pumping plants, and multiple water storage tanks.

Under the new contract, Reaches 9 through 11 of the San Juan Lateral portion of the project will include construction of approximately 28 miles of 48-inch and 42-inch diameter water transmission pipeline between the community of Naschitti, New Mexico to the Twin Lakes, New

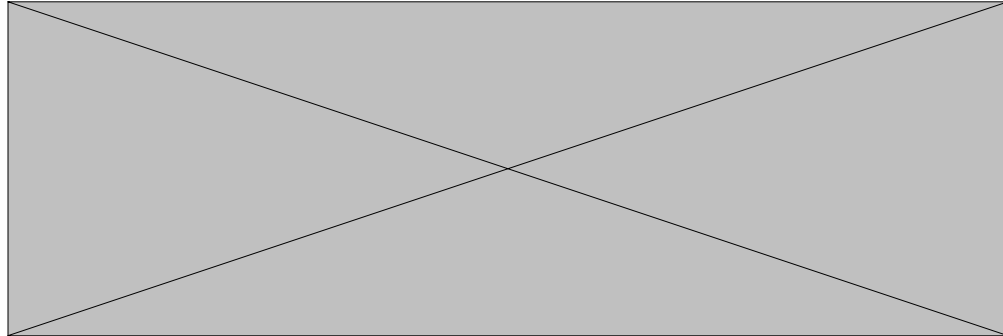
Mexico area. Work on this segment of the project is anticipated to begin in January 2018 with completion scheduled for March 2020.

Upon completion of the entire Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project in 2024, Block 9-11 will include turnouts to provide water to the communities of Naschitti, Buffalo Springs, Tohatchi, and Mexican Springs.

“This contract on a critical infrastructure project is the result of tremendous work by our Reclamation team and partners,” said Alan Mikkelsen, Reclamation’s Acting Commissioner. “The Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project will improve the safety and quality of life by providing an increased supply of clean drinking water to communities within the project area.”

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-16T19:58:32-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Minnesota Artist Bob Hautman Wins 2017 Federal Duck Stamp Contest
Received: 2017-09-16T19:59:08-04:00



Date: September 16, 2017
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Minnesota Artist Bob Hautman Wins 2017 Federal Duck Stamp Contest

WASHINGTON Bob Hautman, an artist from Delano, Minn., is the winner of the 2017 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest. The announcement was made today by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan at the annual art contest, held at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point at the Noel Fine Arts Center.

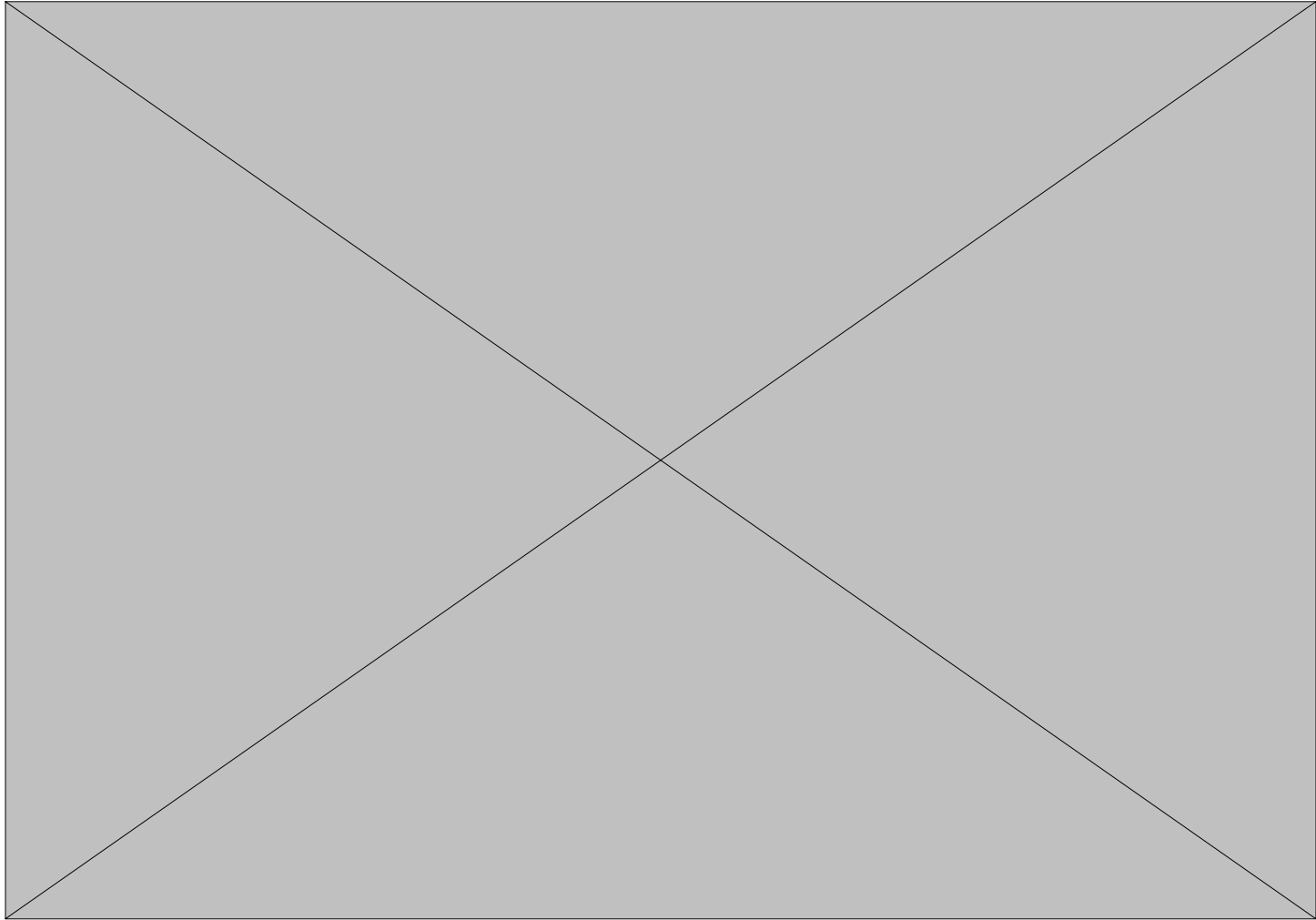
Hautman's acrylic painting of a pair of mallards will be made into the 2018-2019 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or Duck Stamp, which will go on sale in late June 2018. The Service produces the Federal Duck Stamp, which sells for \$25 and raises nearly \$40 million each year to provide critical funds to conserve and protect wetland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of people.

"Our nation's waterfowl hunters and other sportsmen and women have a long tradition of leading the way in conserving wildlife and habitat," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "There is no better example of this than the Duck Stamp, one of the most successful conservation programs in U.S. history, through which hunters have contributed hundreds of millions of dollars since its inception eight decades ago."

"Congratulations to Bob Hautman on his win today," **Sheehan said**. "He is part of a collection of talented wildlife artists whose work has helped conserve habitat not just for waterfowl, but for a vast diversity of wildlife, and helped create and maintain hundreds of places where hunters, anglers and outdoors enthusiasts of all stripes can enjoy their passion."

This is Hautman's third Federal Duck Stamp Contest win. His art previously appeared on the

1997-1998 and 2001-2002 Federal Duck Stamps.



Hautman's brothers, Jim and Joe, are also multiple Duck Stamp artists, having each won the contest five times.

Of 215 entries in this year's competition, 12 entries made it to the final round of judging today. Eligible species for this year's Federal Duck Stamp Contest were the mallard, gadwall, cinnamon teal, blue-winged teal and harlequin duck.

Greg Alexander of Ashland, Wis., placed second with his acrylic painting of a cinnamon teal; Christine Clayton of Sidney, Ohio, took third place with her oil painting of a blue-winged teal.

In 2000, Clayton won the National Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest with a painting of a northern pintail. She was 17 at the time.

The judges for this year's Federal Duck Stamp Contest were: Dr. Jacob Straub, a waterfowl biologist and the Wetlands and Waterfowl Conservation Chair in UW-Stevens Point's College of Natural Resources; Jane Kim, an artist and science illustrator; Robert Spoerl, a lifelong hunter and conservationist with a passion for waterfowl; Tim Pearson, an artist - and flyfishing guide -

who paints mostly in watercolors, inspired by the waters and surrounding wilderness of Lake Superior; and Richard Prager, an avid collector of Federal and Junior Duck Stamps and Duck Stamp remarques and original artwork.

“A huge thank-you goes to the faculty, staff and students of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point for hosting the contest this year,” **said Sheehan**. “The UW-Stevens Point’s College of Natural Resources is one of the nation’s premier natural resources programs and has historical connections with the Service as the alma mater of a number of our staff and top agency leaders.”

Waterfowl hunters age 16 and older are required to purchase and carry the current Federal Duck Stamp. Many non-hunters, including birdwatchers, conservationists, stamp collectors and others also purchase the stamp in support of habitat conservation. Additionally, a current Federal Duck Stamp can be used for free admission to any national wildlife refuge that charges an entry fee.

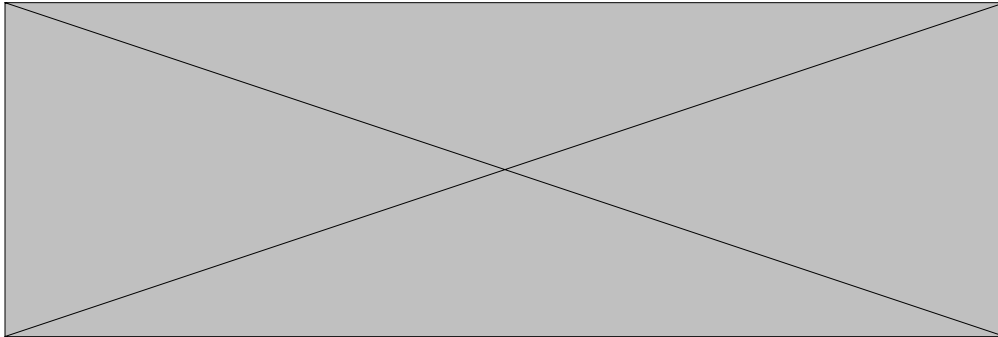
Ninety-eight percent of the proceeds from sales of the Federal Duck Stamp go to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, which supports the protection of migratory bird habitat within the National Wildlife Refuge System.

You can contribute to conservation and America’s great conservation tradition by buying Federal Duck Stamps at many national wildlife refuges, sporting goods stores and other retailers, through the U.S. Postal Service, or online at <http://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php>.

A gallery of the 2017 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest entries is at:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq/sets/72157686451028213/>.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-19T16:50:39-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Promotes Hunting, Fishing, and Wildlife Conservation with Employee "Showdown" at Department of the Interior
Received: 2017-09-19T16:58:01-04:00



Date: September 19, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

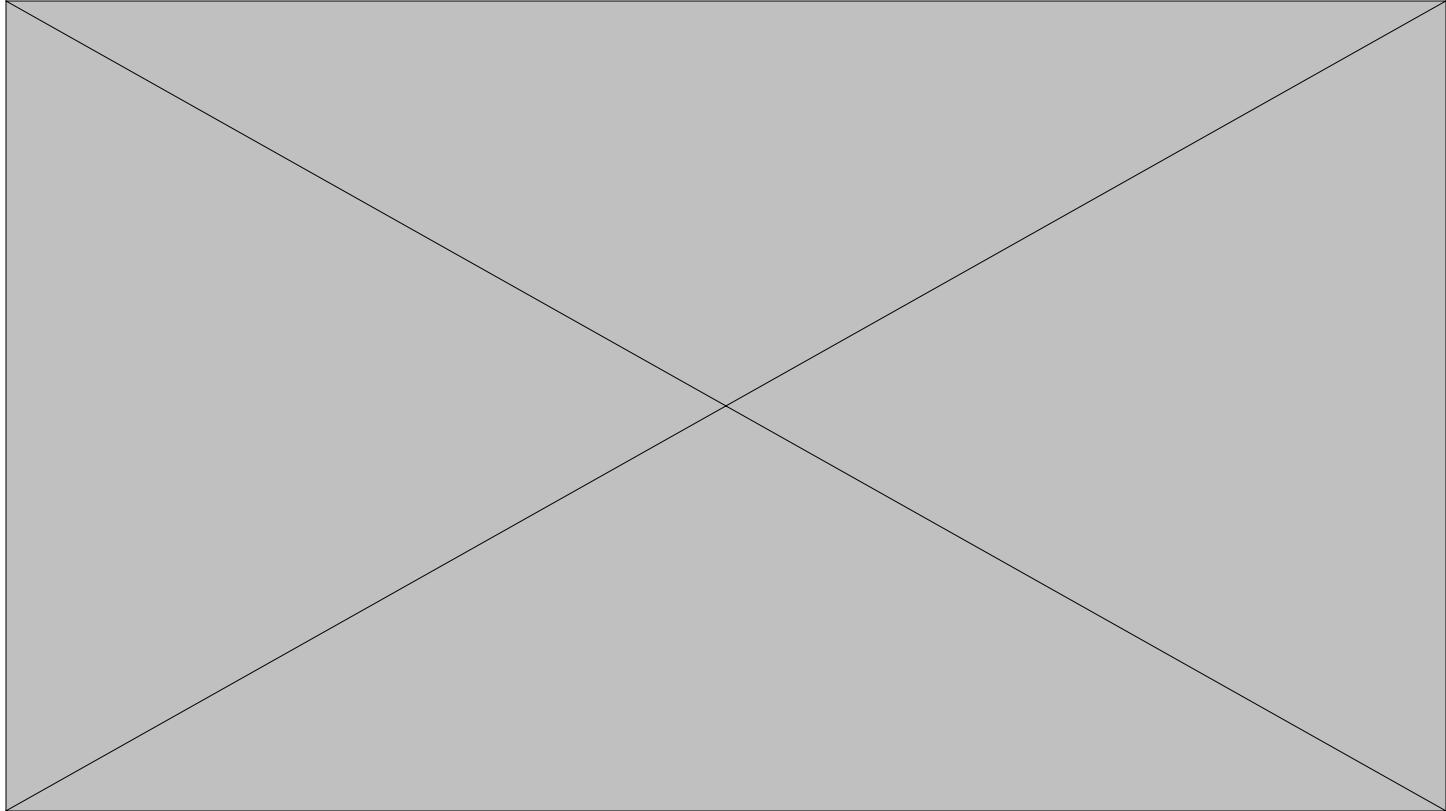
Secretary Zinke Promotes Hunting, Fishing, and Wildlife Conservation with Employee "Showdown" at Department of the Interior

WASHINGTON Today, on the heels of a groundbreaking directive to expand hunting access on public lands, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced his latest initiative to reemphasize hunting and fishing at the Department with a new temporary addition to the employee cafeteria: the arcade game "Big Buck Hunter Pro." The Secretary also announced the "Secretary's Shotgun Showdown," a fun employee competition on the game, with the winner earning bragging rights and a "Beverage on the Balcony" with the Secretary. The contest runs from today, September 19th, 2017, until Wednesday, October 11th, 2017.

Completing the Department's goals and objectives hinges on employee awareness and involvement. Having the "Big Buck Hunter Pro" arcade game will get many employees involved in Sportmen's Season, in turn furthering the Department's mission of wildlife and habitat conservation.

"Some of my best memories are hunting and fishing with my dad and granddad, and then later teaching my own kids to hunt and fish. That's something I want more families to experience," said Secretary Zinke. "Hunters and anglers are the backbone of wildlife and habitat conservation in America. because sportsmen contribute billions of dollars to conservation. From my perspective, the more sportsmen we have in the woods and waters, the better our wildlife and land will be. The "Shotgun Showdown" will help reignite the passion and emphasis of hunting and fishing at the Department, and will be a fun way to advance our mission of wildlife and habitat conservation."

The Secretary kicked off the Shotgun Showdown by facing off against U.S. Fish and Wildlife career employee Casey Stemler from Littleton, Colorado. For over 45 years, Casey has enjoyed hunting and fishing on National Wildlife Refuges across the nation from California to Maryland and big-game hunting on BLM lands throughout the west.



This September and October, the Department of the Interior is setting its sights on the continued role that hunters and anglers play in wildlife conservation. Earlier this month, Secretary Zinke [signed a directive](#) to support and expand hunting and fishing, enhance conservation stewardship, improve wildlife management, and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans. The move was widely praised by sportsmen and wildlife conservation organizations.

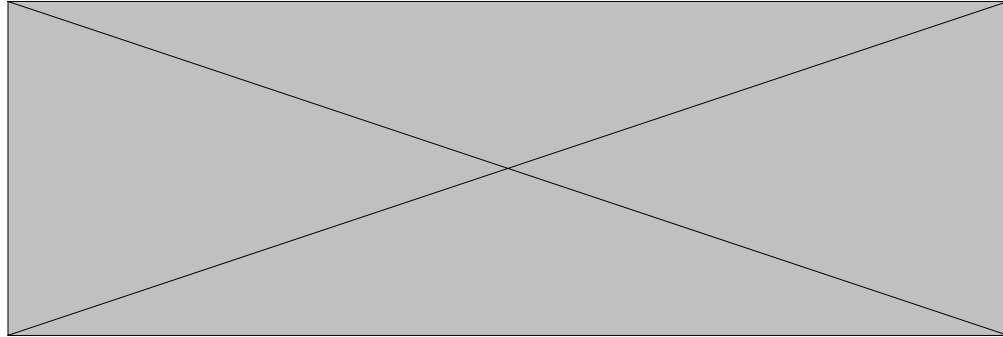
On his first day in office, Secretary Zinke reversed an order that would have banned lead ammo and tackle on National Wildlife Refuge lands, and he began the process of expanding hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands across the Department.

In August, the Secretary announced a proposal to expand hunting and fishing opportunities at 10 National Wildlife Refuges, and he announced the initial stages of a plan to acquire land to make the Bureau of Land Management Sabinoso Wilderness Area accessible for the first time ever to hunters, hikers, and wildlife watchers.

In addition, Secretary Zinke recently made recommendations to President Trump on 27 national monuments, calling for changes to some that, while still protecting the land, would also protect and expand public access to that land for citizens who want to hunt, fish, hike, and experience the joy and beauty of those public lands.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-19T17:34:20-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Post-Irma, Trump Administration Assists Seminole Tribe with First Presidential Emergency Declaration Ever for a Tribal Nation
Received: 2017-09-19T17:40:22-04:00



Date: September 19, 2017
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Post-Irma, Trump Administration Assists Seminole Tribe with First Presidential Emergency Declaration Ever for a Tribal Nation

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today thanked President Trump for signing a Presidential Emergency Declaration for the Seminole Tribe of Florida , which was hard hit by Hurricane Irma.last week. The tribe made its request to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as soon as it was able to do so. This is the first such declaration ever approved for a tribal nation according to FEMA.

“I want to thank President Trump for quickly responding to the Seminole Tribe’s request for a Presidential Emergency Declaration to help it address the severe damage it suffered from Hurricane Irma,” **Secretary Zinke said.** “The Interior Department and, specifically, the Bureau of Indian Affairs are actively working to provide the tribe with law enforcement and emergency services that will help fill in gaps in its own resources and supplement the assistance it receives from FEMA.”

The declaration came with a surge of 75 volunteer officers from the Department of Interior, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, various other Interior bureaus, and other Tribal Nations. Two dozen BIA and tribal officers remain this week to provide law enforcement and emergency services.

The Seminole Tribe is headquartered in the city of Hollywood, and is one of two federally recognized tribes in the state of Florida. The Tribe has tribal members on the Hollywood, Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee, Fort Pierce, Lakeland and Tampa Reservations as well as

communities in Naples, Tamiami Trail, and around the central Florida area.

“To be able to have the relationship with the federal government to ensure the support and safety of all Seminole Tribe of Florida Reservations and our members is a testament to the relationship of two sovereign governments,” **said Seminole Chairman Marcellus Osceola**. “I would like to thank President Donald Trump for his commitment to deploy all necessary resources to assist the Seminole Tribe of Florida during this difficult time.”

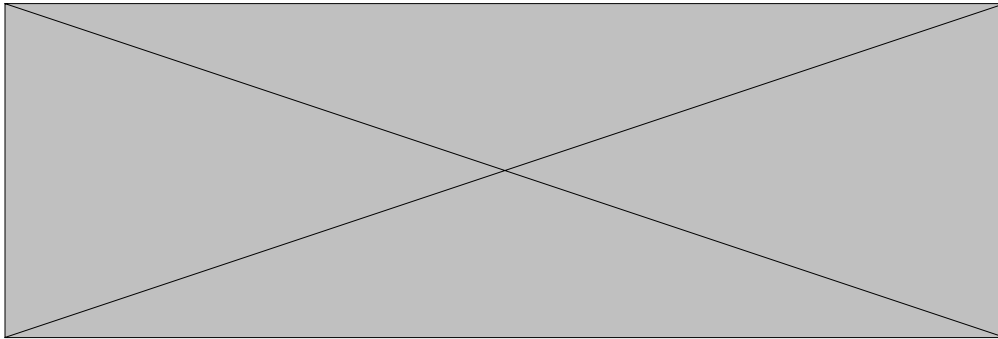
“The President’s fast response to the Seminole Tribe’s request for an emergency declaration was critical for the tribe to receive the assistance it needs to recover from the effects of Hurricane Irma,” **said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs John Tahsuda III**. “By specifically asking for BIA law enforcement personnel to help relieve the Seminole tribal police officers, who have been on duty for over a week straight, the declaration allows us to move forward quickly to render such assistance and protect lives and property.”

With the President’s action, the BIA’s Office of Justice Services (OJS) will be able to provide law enforcement officers to support the Tribe under a Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) mission. The mission is being staffed by the BIA and supplemented by tribal and DOI law enforcement officers. The Bureau sent radio technicians to the site along with staff who delivered mobile sleeping quarters for mission personnel. BIA and other DOI Bureaus deployed 75 of the 125 personnel approved under the mission to support the Seminole Tribe at the Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee and Hollywood Reservations

The BIA’s Emergency Management office is leading a Tribal Assistance Coordination Group (TAC-G), which is responsible for coordinating emergency management actions of federal and state agencies, as well as volunteer organizations and other TAC-G partners, in support of tribes in Texas and Louisiana impacted by Hurricane Harvey and those impacted by Hurricane Irma.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-21T12:33:48-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Declares October National Hunting and Fishing Month
Received: 2017-09-21T12:34:22-04:00



Date: September 21, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Declares October National Hunting and Fishing Month

WASHINGTON Just days before National Hunting and Fishing Day which is held on September 23rd every year - U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke declared October will officially be recognized as National Hunting and Fishing Month at the Department. Zinke championed the order to recognize the lasting and positive impact of hunters and anglers on wildlife and habitat conservation in America. This order comes on the heels of several major sportsmen actions from Interior including Wednesday's announcement of the addition of 600 acres of land in Arizona's Santa Teresa Mountains to make Wilderness Areas accessible for hunting and fishing.

"I grew up in northwest Montana surrounded by public lands and waters. Some of my best memories are hunting and fishing with my dad and granddad, and then later teaching my own kids to hunt and fish. That's something I want more families to experience, which is exactly why increasing access to public lands is so important," **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. "Hunters and anglers are the backbone of wildlife and habitat conservation in America, and they contribute billions of dollars to conservation. From my perspective, the more sportsmen we have in the woods and waters, the better our wildlife and land will be. Formally recognizing the contributions of hunters and anglers to wildlife and habitat conservation is long overdue."

"Hunters, anglers, and target shooters are the best conservationists who contribute so much through the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts," **said Richard Childress**, second Vice President of the National Rifle Association, NASCAR driver, and honorary chair of

Hunting and Fishing Day. “Last year, they contributed \$1.2 billion toward conservation and protecting our natural resources. We need more mentors taking young people out and teaching them to hunt and fish, so I’m glad Secretary Zinke is promoting hunting and fishing at the federal level.”

The declaration was signed Wednesday night at the grand opening of the Wonders of Wildlife Museum in Springfield, Missouri. Event speakers included former Presidents George W. Bush and Jimmy Carter.

President George H.W. Bush sent a video message with a virtual ribbon cutting. Earlier in the day Secretary Zinke scuba dove in the shark-filled aquarium and conducted a question and answer session with a fifth grade class of young conservationists.

Hunters and anglers contribute billions of dollars to conservation through initiatives like the Federal Duck Stamp, which sells for \$25 and raises nearly \$40 million each year to provide critical funds to conserve and protect wetland habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Excises taxes on firearms, ammo and tackle also generate more than a billion dollars per year through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts.

This September and October, the Department of the Interior is setting its sights on the continued role that hunters and anglers play in wildlife conservation.

Earlier this month, Secretary Zinke signed a directive to support and expand hunting and fishing, enhance conservation stewardship, improve wildlife management, and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans. The order expanded hunting, fishing and shooting on public lands and sought innovative solutions to open private land. It also focused on wildlife and habitat conservation and restoration as well as better collaboration with states, tribes and territorial governments. The move was widely praised by sportsmen and wildlife conservation organizations.

In August, the Secretary announced a proposal to expand hunting and fishing opportunities at 10 National Wildlife Refuges, and he announced the initial stages of a plan to acquire land to make the Bureau of Land Management Sabinoso Wilderness Area accessible for the first time ever to hunters, hikers, and wildlife watchers.

On his first day in office, Secretary Zinke reversed an order that would have banned lead ammo and tackle on National Wildlife Refuge lands, and he began the process of expanding hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands across the Department.

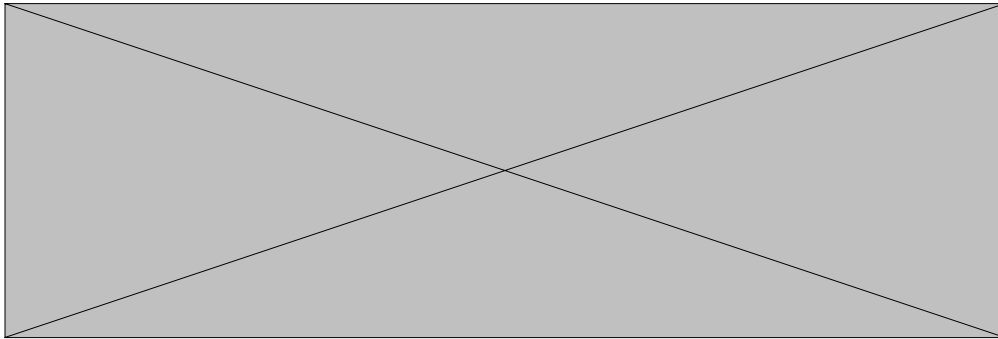
“It’s imperative that we have people like Secretary Zinke speaking about and promoting hunting and fishing. It’s not only our heritage, it’s also the key to true conservation,” **said Craig Morgan**, a country music performer who performed at the event.

“It is refreshing that Secretary Zinke understands the value of hunting and fishing to American conservation,” **said Major David Eaton**, who spoke at the event. “The more public game lands become available to Americans, the better off our country will be.”

In addition, Secretary Zinke recently made recommendations to President Trump on 27 national monuments, calling for changes to some that, while still protecting the land, would also protect and expand public access to that land for citizens who want to hunt, fish, hike, and experience the joy and beauty of those public lands.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-28T10:38:13-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Urban Waters Team Wins "People's Choice" Public Service Award
Received: 2017-09-28T10:38:56-04:00



Date: September 27, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Urban Waters Team Wins "People's Choice" Public Service Award

WASHINGTON The Urban Waters Federal Partnership, an interagency group in which the Department of the Interior is one of the leaders, has won the "People's Choice" award in the Service to America Medals. The nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service announced the award on September 27 at its annual gala popularly dubbed the "Oscars of Government Service."

Out of 430 nominees, the Urban Waters Team was chosen by popular vote for making "the most admirable contribution to the American people." The team works through public-private partnerships to clean up and revitalize urban waterways and surrounding lands.

"Congratulations to the Urban Waters Team," **said Andrea Travnicek, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science.** "Their work helped spur economic development, identifying opportunities for restoration in American communities along important urban waterways."

The team was created and led by Surabhi Shah of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and includes the departments of Agriculture, Interior, Housing and Urban Development and 10 other federal agencies. The [Urban Waters Federal Partnership](#) aims to help heavily polluted American urban waterways, as well as the lands surrounding them that suffer from environmental degradation.

Four Interior bureaus -- the U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation -- have more than 70 staff working in [19 Urban Waters locations](#). Projects in these cities have included restoring urban wetlands; building trails, parks, and green space; reducing storm water flow into rivers and streams; and increasing urban habitat.

Employees from Interior and other federal agencies are teaming up with local and state agencies, businesses, nonprofits and philanthropies to clean up pollution; spur redevelopment of abandoned properties; promote new businesses; and provide parks and access for boating, swimming, fishing and community gatherings.

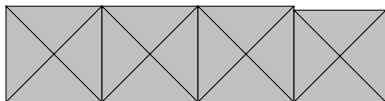
One example of a place in which Interior has served as a leader is the Los Angeles River Urban Waters Partnership. The National Park Service and its partners are raising the profile of river restoration in the densely populated downtown Los Angeles. Last summer NPS worked with American Forests and CBS/Ecomedia to host a volunteer tree and shrub planting at a park next to the river, working toward the goal of a greener LA river. Los Angeles Urban Waters is helping raise the profile of river restoration and serving as a much-needed portal for federal and non-federal institutions to coordinate public and private sector restoration efforts.

"The Urban Waters Federal Partnership has provided a foundation for all 14 federal agencies to work across silos, and leverage resources and expertise," **said Lisa Pelstring, leader of the Interior team and urban policy advisor at the department.** "We recognize that by working together, we can accomplish so much more restoration, recreation, and economic development in cities where it's already expensive to operate and difficult to make things happen."

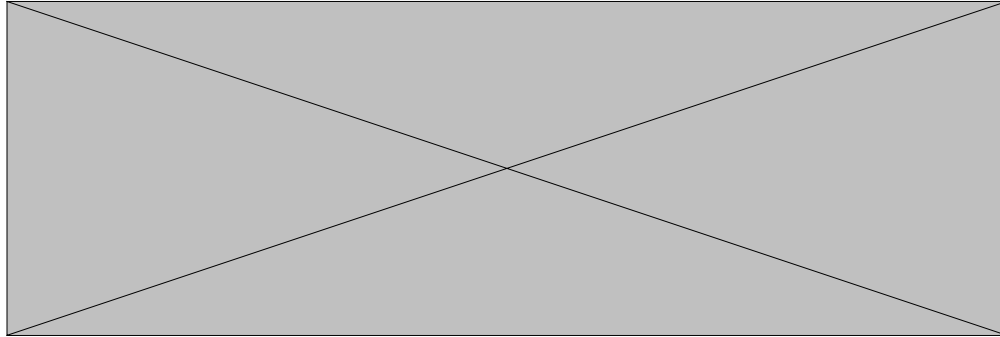
This leveraging of resources has enabled the Urban Waters Partnership to be active nationwide through grants coordinated by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. It has improved more than 22,000 acres of land, planted more than 80,000 trees and engaged an estimated 100,000 community members.

For more information, please see the [Partnership for Public Service website](#).

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-09-30T15:58:28-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Department Supported \$254 Billion in Economic Activity and Nearly 1.7 million Jobs in FY 2016
Received: 2017-09-30T15:59:09-04:00



Date: September 29, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Department Supported \$254 Billion in Economic Activity and Nearly 1.7 million Jobs in FY 2016

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today released the U.S. Department of the Interior's Economic Report for Fiscal Year 2016. The report highlights that Interior activities supporting conventional and renewable energy, recreation, conservation, water energy supported \$254 billion in economic output and nearly 1.7 million jobs during the year.

National parks, refuges, monuments and other public lands managed by Interior hosted an estimated 473 million recreational visits in 2016 up from 443 million in 2015 these visits supported \$50 billion in economic output and about 426,000 jobs nationwide.

The Department's diverse portfolio includes the management of some 500 million acres of public lands, and another 1.7 billion acres offshore on the Outer Continental Shelf. In addition, the Department is the Nation's largest supplier and manager of water in 17 Western states. It oversees cutting-edge scientific research in the areas of geology, hydrology and biology and serves as Trustee for 567 federally-recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes.

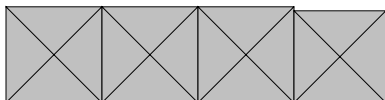
Highlights from the report include:

- **Fossil Fuel Energy:** In FY 2016, Interior-managed lands and waters produced 768 million barrels of crude oil, 4.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and 310 million tons of coal, supporting \$68.3 billion in value added, \$117.7 billion in economic output, and 582,000 jobs.

- **Renewable Energy:** In FY 2016, Interior lands and facilities produced 36.7 million MWh of hydropower (enough to power 3.4 million homes). Renewable energy projects on Interior lands solar (6,859MW), wind (3,568 MW), and geothermal energy (1,543 MW) -- supported \$3.8 billion in economic output and 17,000 jobs in FY 2016.
- **Non-fuel Minerals:** In FY 2016, Interior lands produced a wide variety of non-fuel minerals, supporting value added of \$6.1 billion, economic output of \$11.4 billion, and 39,000 jobs.
- **Recreation:** In FY 2016, Interior's lands hosted an estimated 473 million visits, supporting \$28.1 billion in value added, \$50.0 billion in economic output, and 426,000 jobs.
- **Water:** Interior stores and delivers water for irrigation, municipal and industrial (M&I), and other uses supporting \$28.9 billion in value added \$49.7 billion in economic output, and 399,000 jobs in FY 2016. Interior also delivers water to support in-stream flows, wildlife refuges, and other uses that not typically reflected in economic contribution estimates.
- **Forage and Grazing:** In FY 2016, Interior lands provided access to 8.6 million animal unit months (AUMs) of forage, supporting \$2.4 billion in economic output and 41,000 jobs.
- **Timber:** In FY 2016, about 673,000 mbf of sawtimber was harvested on BLM and tribal lands, supporting \$0.48 billion in value added, \$1.4 billion in economic output, and 6,200 jobs.
- **Grants/Payments:** Activities related to grant and payment programs administered by Interior supported \$6.4 billion in value added, \$9.1 billion in economic contributions, and 84,000 jobs in FY 2016.
- **Conservation:** Conservation is a component of recreation, restoration, water management, and even some mineral development activities. The value of these activities is not typically reflected in economic contribution estimates.
- **Scientific Data:** Interior's data collection and research promote economic growth and innovation and play a role in promoting American competitiveness in a global marketplace. The value of these activities is not typically reflected in economic contribution estimates.

The report is paired with a web-based data visualization tool that lets the user customize the contribution analysis by bureau, activity or State. You can access the tool and download the full economic report, with a discussion of the analysis and methodology applied on the internet at <https://doi.sciencebase.gov/doidv/>.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-03T19:42:05-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: *News Alert* WSJ Editorial: A Return to the Conservation Ethic - Plus Info On 2 Events Tomorrow
Received: 2017-10-03T19:42:45-04:00
[RPC Agenda 09-19-17.pdf](#)

Esteemed Colleagues,

Tomorrow starting at 9am DOI's 1st Royalty Policy Committee Meeting, open to the public.
See attachment for details (available via phone or live video broadcast)

Below is a WSJ article that merits passing along.

Also here is a link to an event tomorrow at The Heritage Foundation regarding NM's (this is not organized nor sponsored by DOI yet some people may find it interesting). This will also be broadcast live.

<http://www.heritage.org/event/national-monuments-and-the-communities-they-impact-views-beyond-the-beltway>

Enjoy!

Wall Street Journal-Opinion: A Return to the Conservation Ethic

Kimberley A. Strassel

September 29, 2017

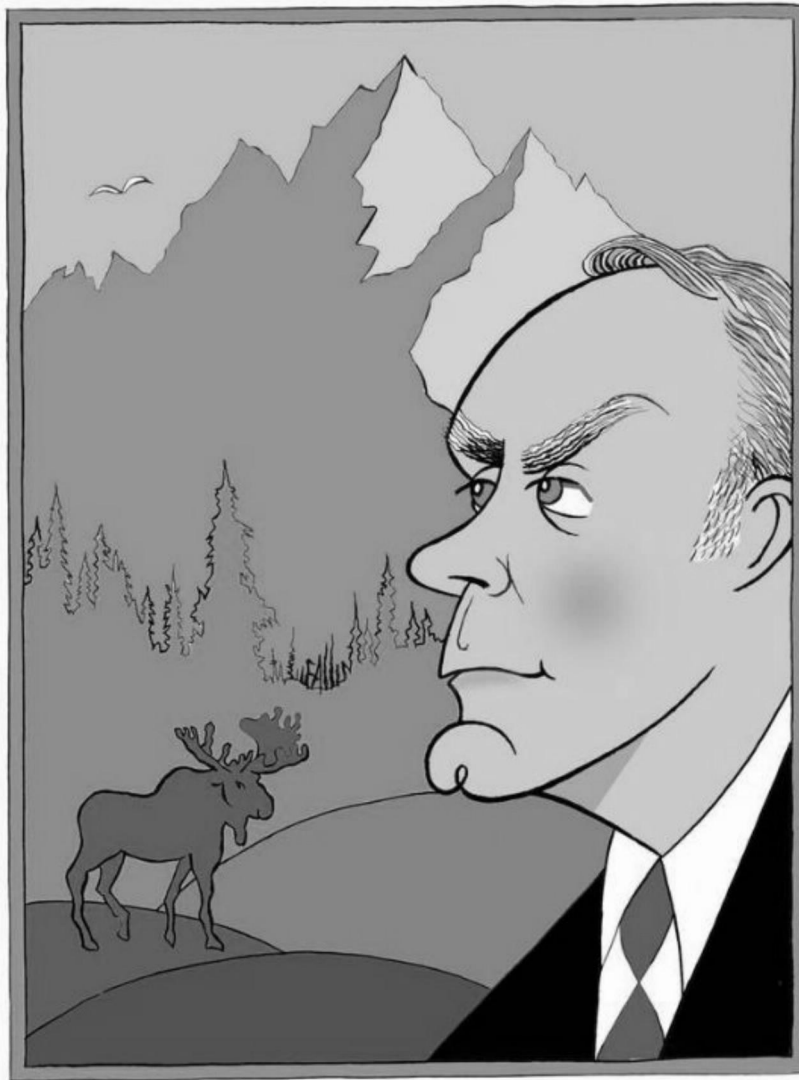
Amid legislative failure and Twitter tumult, President Trump's supporters could be forgiven for thinking he's failed to fulfill his promise of bringing radical change to Washington. But he also appointed a cabinet full of reform-minded conservatives. Ryan Zinke, the former Montana congressman who was confirmed as interior secretary in March, is getting high marks for the speed and scope of his overhaul.

"My first goal is to restore trust with America that we are in fact using our public lands 'for the benefit and the enjoyment of the people' not for the very few and the elite," he told me Monday, using language from the Yellowstone National Park Protection Act of 1872. The Interior Department oversees 500 million acres nationwide more than one-fifth of the country's land area mostly in the West. "We are going to be great stewards of these treasures," Mr. Zinke says, "but we are also going to restore access to the people and to industry and be a partner."

The Interior Department has positioned itself at the forefront of Mr. Trump's energy revival. It is eliminating or preparing to reverse more than 150 Obama regulations, including those curtailing coal mining and hydraulic fracturing, better known as fracking. It has reopened Alaska's Cook Inlet for business, made 76 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico available for offshore oil-and-gas exploration, and turbocharged pipeline permitting.

On Mr. Trump's order, the department has reviewed 27 national monuments, which by virtue of that designation can be off-limits to development and to activities such as hunting and fishing. Mr. Zinke has recommended shrinking at least four of them, in line with the Antiquities Act of 1906, which limits the designations to federal land and to the smallest area necessary to protect an actual historical or scientific object.

"I'm grateful the president had the courage to ask the question," Mr. Zinke says. His review found past administrations had scooped up private land and relied on bogus historical "objects" in one case, a World War II-era test bombing crater to justify new designations. "The Antiquities Act has been used not to protect, but to prevent public access and to prevent public use," Mr. Zinke says. "To make it hard on local cattlemen, who could no longer use machinery to scoop out a pond, or on cross-country skiers, who can't have trails groomed."



Mr. Zinke's office in Washington is a testament to his own lifelong love of the outdoors. In one

corner looms a massive stuffed grizzly bear. Two heads, a buffalo and an elk, are mounted over the fireplace. Cowboy hats litter the place, and a sign behind his desk reads: “Yep.” Mr. Zinke arrived for his first day on horseback, instituted a bring-your-dog-to-work day, installed the arcade game Big Buck Hunter in the cafeteria, and even personally shoveled snow at the Lincoln Memorial. But he spends much of his time on the road, exploring federal lands on horseback, in planes and on plows. “As Interior Secretary Swaggers Through Parks, His Staff Rolls Back Regulations,” the New York Times sniffed in a recent headline.

When Mr. Zinke talks policy, he strikes a distinctly populist tone. On his first day in office, he reversed the Obama administration’s last-minute ban on using lead ammunition and fishing tackle on federal lands, an edict he saw as an assault on hunters and anglers of ordinary means, who rely on affordable gear. “This was, again, part of a goal to make hunting and fishing elite, an experience only for the person who can pay for a guide or go a whole week,” Mr. Zinke says. “But it means you limit grandpa, you limit the disabled veteran, you limit the family that goes out for a day to enjoy our public lands.”

Similarly, he sees energy development as a basic way for public lands to benefit the nation. “I never want our children to have to fight overseas for a commodity that we have here,” he says, “especially knowing that we have an energy industry that is the world standard for safety and environmental regulations.” Cheap American energy, he adds, is crucial to lowering U.S. manufacturing costs and boosting workers’ wages.

“Access to our public lands has been limited for industry, even in areas where it is absolutely appropriate,” Mr. Zinke says. “It’s called the National Petroleum Reserve for a reason.” The reference is to the 23 million acres in Alaska that Interior is investigating reopening for drilling after Obama-era restrictions. The department is also working on a new five-year plan for oil-and-gas development in the Outer Continental Shelf, 94% of which is currently off-limits to energy producers. It is issuing coal leases in Wyoming and Utah and streamlining approvals for the construction of the Berwind coal mine on the Virginia-West Virginia border.

“Our regulatory scheme has to be one that holds industry accountable, but that isn’t arbitrary,” Mr. Zinke says. In the past, “not only has our federal government been arbitrary, it has been punitive.” He cites the example of Shell, which spent \$10 billion on an Arctic drilling plan “only to be forced into a regulatory box that almost guarantees failure.” Mr. Zinke is unequivocal: “That’s wrong.” His department is trying to prove its good faith by clearing backlogged permit applications and streamlining future projects. Mr. Zinke is also implementing a strictly market-based approach to energy plays, rather than subsidizing costly renewables. “We are for all-of-the-above energy, but the energy itself has to be competitive,” he says. “It isn’t Interior’s role to pick and choose winners.”

All this will generate more revenue that the federal government can use to preserve national treasures for future generations. The Obama administration’s crackdown on energy leases slowed royalties and left the Interior Department with an \$11.5 billion infrastructure backlog in the national parks alone. In 2008, Mr. Zinke says, the department pulled in \$18 billion in offshore revenue. Last year Interior’s offshore revenues were only \$2.6 billion. Even with the drop in oil prices, Mr. Zinke estimates that had drilling continued apace, Interior would have no

maintenance backlog today and would instead be making capital investments of \$3 billion to \$4 billion a year.

Under Mr. Zinke's leadership, the department has already held more onshore lease sales in six months than in all of last year. From January to June of 2016, Interior generated just \$11.5 million from onshore oil and gas. For the same period this year, the figure is \$146 million. And Mr. Zinke insists he drives a hard bargain. "We have a royalty committee that we established to make sure the American public is getting value," he says. "If you are doing commercial work on our public lands, the No. 1 stakeholder is the American public, and they need a fair return."

Mr. Zinke says his longer-term goal is to make his department a better steward. He brings up President Theodore Roosevelt's famous 1903 camping trip to Yosemite National Park with the preservationist John Muir: "They went out on this wonderful ride, a ride that you could not even replicate today because of the dead and dying trees." Mr. Zinke has ordered all his agencies to put a priority on active management against wildfires. "We are spending \$2 billion a year fighting fires, money that could be going to far better conservation efforts," he says, visibly annoyed.

Such mismanagement is what drives Western frustration, which threatens to become a new Sagebrush Rebellion. "Some of the anger is that our grand bargains have been broken, and those bargains said that you had wilderness, but you also have grazing; you could also hunt and fish," Mr. Zinke says. Now Westerners "watch these catastrophic fires, and they've lost any faith that the federal government is capable of being a good steward."

Mr. Zinke believes the only way for Interior to improve its performance is through a radical overhaul. He plans to devolve far more authority and resources to front-line park and land managers, allowing them to make decisions more quickly and efficiently. "You end up with a park superintendent of 47 years who apparently can't be trusted with making the grand decision of whether and when locals can collect fiddleheads," a type of fern, he says. "They're spending more time behind a desk, less in the field, and they are getting micromanaged."

The federal bureaucracy also makes it hard for on-site staff to work with state authorities, Indian tribes, and private landowners on solutions that take account of local needs. Mr. Zinke is thinking about moving the headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation to somewhere out West, perhaps Colorado. "I'm a military guy, so I'm all about putting your assets closer to the fight," he says with a laugh.

Mr. Zinke's ambitions extend to the daunting challenge of reforming the way the entire federal government manages its property. "We've got to start looking at our lands in terms of complete watersheds and ecosystems, rather than isolated assets," he says. "We need to think about wildlife corridors, because it turns out wildlife doesn't just stay on federal lands."

Even when it does, there often are overlapping jurisdictions. The management of a single stream may involve endangered salmon (overseen by the National Marine Fisheries Service), trout (Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service), a dam (the Army Corps of Engineers), irrigation

(Interior's Bureau of Reclamation), and a nearby forest (the Agriculture Department's Forest Service). "We can have, and frequently do have, multiple biological opinions that are irreconcilable," Mr. Zinke says. "That's us mismanaging our core mission."

One of Mr. Zinke's first trips as secretary was to Yellowstone National Park. His first stop was the Roosevelt Arch, whose cornerstone was laid by Theodore Roosevelt in 1903. It is inscribed with that phrase from the law that created the park: "For the Benefit and Enjoyment of the People."

As a vision, that's pure Gifford Pinchot, who became the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service in 1905, during TR's presidency. Pinchot was a founder of the conservationist movement, an ardent believer in market forces, and an aggressive proponent of controlled but profitable use of natural resources for the benefit of citizens. Today's environmental movement—which measures the success of government land management by the number of acres locked away from public use—has largely excised Pinchot from history in favor of Muir.

"But here's the difference," says Mr. Zinke. "TR went on a nice ride with Muir. He hired Pinchot. And that's because Pinchot advocated using science and best practices for management."

The conservation ethic is where the similarity with Mr. Zinke ends. Pinchot was a scion of a wealthy East Coast family, a Yale Skull and Bones man. Mr. Zinke is all blue-collar Montana—the son of a plumber, an Eagle Scout, a college football player, a geologist, and the first Navy SEAL elected to Congress. His broader political outlook is more libertarian than that of the progressive Pinchot. "I've only ever thought there are two things our government should fund absolutely: our military and our parks system," Mr. Zinke says with a laugh. "The rest is up for discussion."

Ms. Strassel writes the Journal's Potomac Watch column.

###

**Royalty Policy Committee
Inaugural Meeting
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW; Washington, DC 20240**

South Penthouse, 7th Floor
October 4, 2017, 8:30am 4:00pm

Domestic Conference Line: 888 455 2910 Passcode: 7741096
International Conference Line: 1 210 839 8953 Passcode: 7741096
Webex: <http://bit.ly/1cR9W6t>

AGENDA

Host: Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior

Chair: Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy, Interior

DFO: James Schindler, Executive Director, RPC

Meeting Goals:

- Provide Committee members with an Ethics Overview
- Overview of the DOI Data Portal
- Overview of the Life of a Lease
- Overview of Royalties as an Economic Concept
- Agree on first year priority issues and establish goals
- Begin Discussions on Valuation Reform
- Form subcommittees to begin work
- Adopt a timeline for future meetings and actions to be taken in order to achieve Committee goals

Meeting Materials:

- Agenda
- Committee Charter
- Operating Procedures
- Committee Directory
- Ethics Presentation
- Life of a Lease Onshore Presentation
- Life of a Lease – Offshore Presentation
- Economics Presentation
- Valuation Presentation
- FY2018 Timeline

8:30am–9:00am, Registration and Light Refreshments

Registration

9:00am-9:30am, Welcome and Overview

Call to Order

James Schindler, Designated Federal Officer / Executive Director

Welcome and Introductions

Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy, Interior
All Committee Members

Opening Remarks and Expectations for the Royalty Policy Committee
Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior

9:30am-9:40am, Agenda Review

9:40am-9:55am, Ethics Overview & Discussion

Scott Currie, Attorney – Advisor

9:55am-10:30am, DOI Data Portal Presentation

Judy Wilson, ONRR

10:30am–10:45am, Break

10:45am – 11:15am, Life of a Lease Presentation

TBD, ASLM/BLM/BOEM

11:15am – 11:45am, DOI Economics Presentation

Benjamin Simon, Policy Analysis

11:45am-1:00pm, Break for Lunch

No Host Lunch

Sector Break Out Rooms Available

1:00pm-1:45pm, Committee Topics Goals Discussion

Discuss proposed Committee topics and goals, Finalize and Approve
Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy, Interior – Introduce Session
Full Committee Discussion

- Expansion of American energy development
- Provide greater input for local communities affected by leasing activities
- Ensure Fair Market Value/Return for resources produced on Federal and Indian Lands
- Assess economics and modeling of present and future fiscal terms

1:45pm-2:15pm, Valuation Presentation

Federal Oil & Gas and Federal & Indian Coal Valuation reform
Bonnie Robson, Program Manager, Appeals & Regulations, ONRR

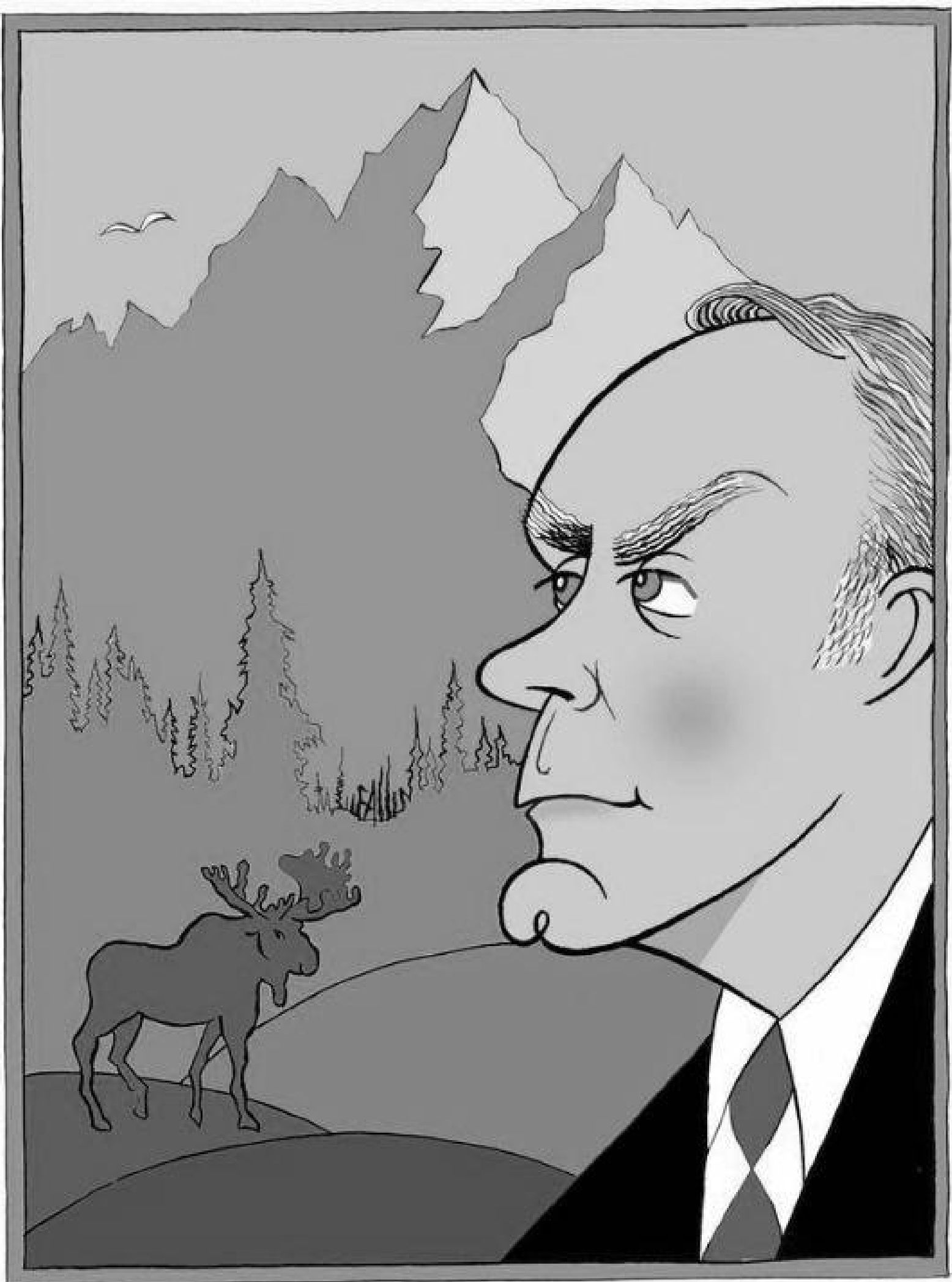
2:15pm-2:30pm, Break

2:30pm-3:00pm, Opportunity for Public Comment

3:00pm-3:40pm, Subcommittees and 2018 Timeline Discussion

Role and Formation of Subcommittees
Sector Proposals, Committee Discussion, Finalize and Approve
2018 Timeline

3:40pm-4:00pm, Wrap-up, Conclusion and Next Steps, Adjourn



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-03T20:24:11-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Interior Energy Dominance - Speech Heard Around The World
Received: 2017-10-03T20:24:45-04:00

American Energy Dominance Supporters,

Below is a link to a news article about our Secretary's speech last Friday at The Heritage Foundation, which was heard loud and clear in the Middle East.

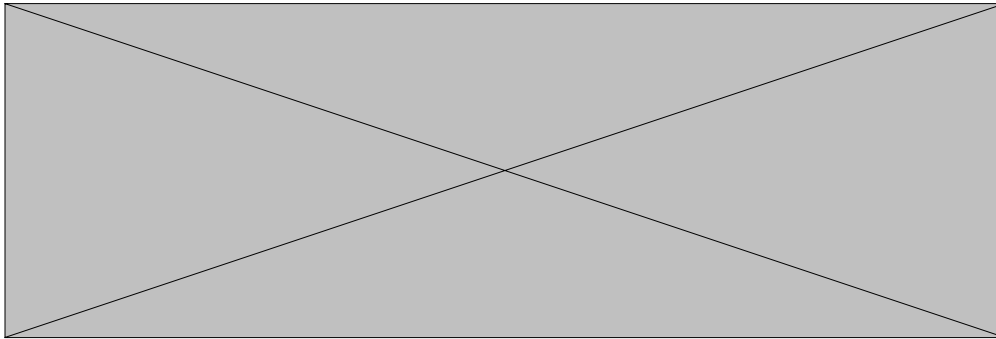
****Warning - you are about to enter the Iranian news spin zone****

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2017/09/30/536970/Iran-US-oil-exports-sanctions-Trump>

MAGA,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-04T20:40:11-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Readout of the First Meeting of Re-chartered U.S. Interior Royalty Policy Committee
Received: 2017-10-04T20:40:49-04:00

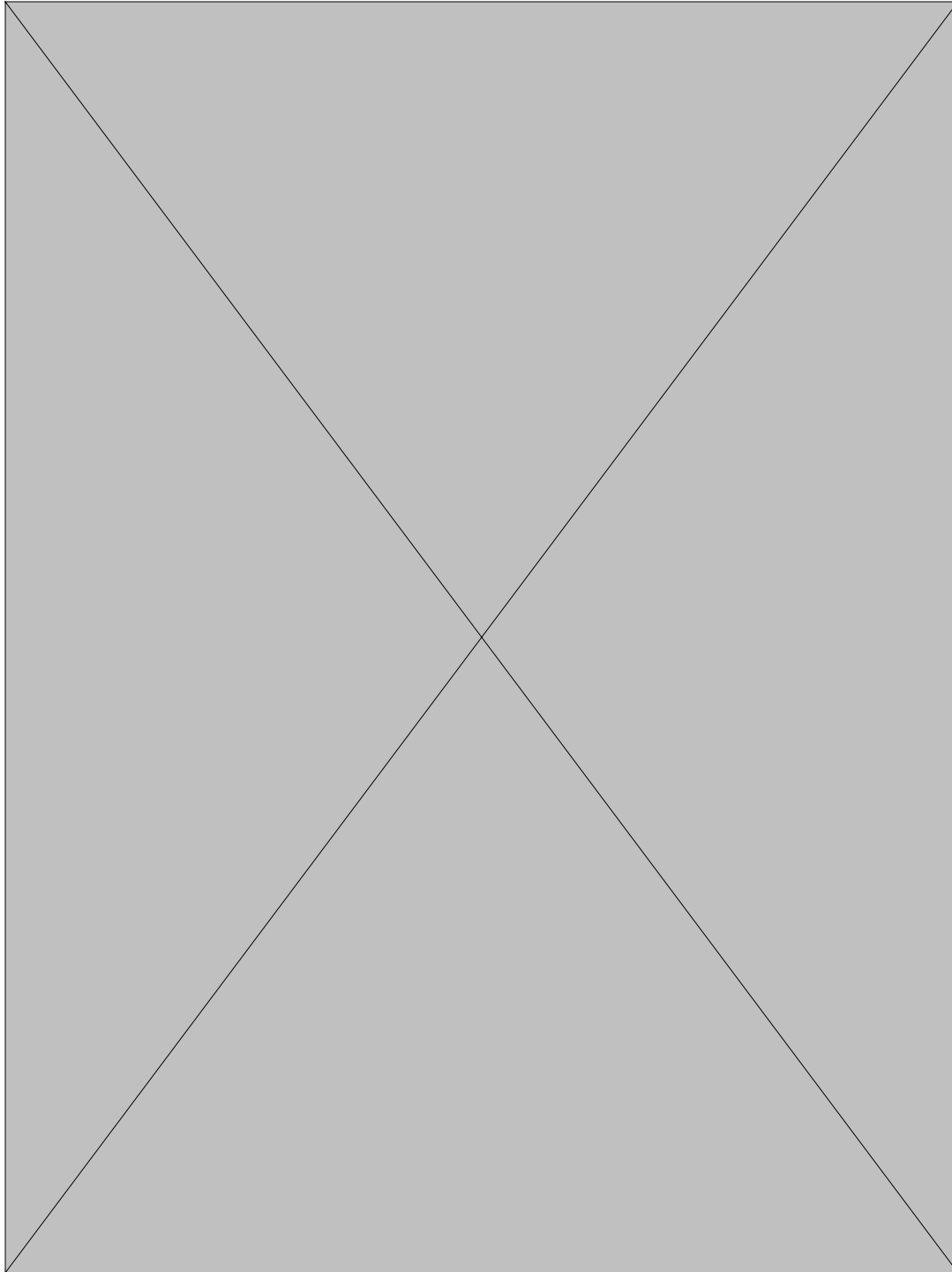


Date: October 4, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Readout of the First Meeting of Re-chartered U.S. Interior Royalty Policy Committee

*First Meeting Marks Significant Step Toward Restoring Public Trust, Collaborative
Development of Federal Lands*

WASHINGTON Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy Vincent DeVito welcomed new members of the Royalty Policy Committee, which was re-chartered on March 29 by the Secretary after an 8 year absence.



After introductions by the Secretary, new members were briefed on a variety of topics from their ethical responsibilities as appointees under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, to a detailed account of economic considerations the Department uses when offering public lands for lease.

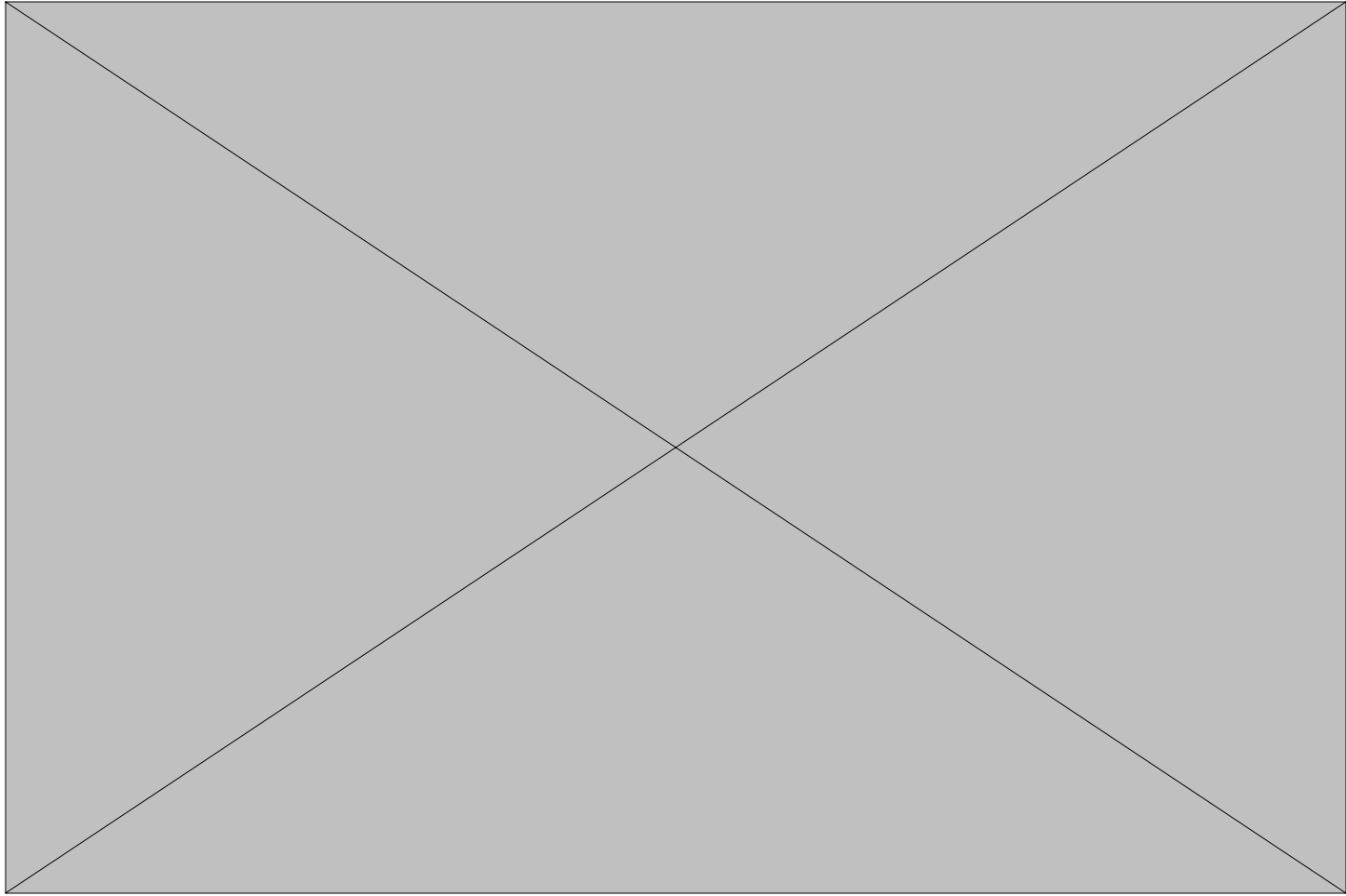
The Committee was re-chartered in an effort to provide a continuous forum for interested stakeholders to debate and deliberate recommendations to the Secretary on ensuring the public receives full value of natural resources produced on federal and Indian lands, including

renewable energy sources. The Committee may also advise on the potential impacts of proposed policies and regulations related to revenue collection, including whether a needs exists for regulatory reform.

Topics presented at the meeting ranged from ways to promote the expansion of American energy development, to providing greater input for local communities affected by leasing activities, to reassessing the economic models used by the Department.

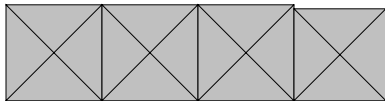
Another topic discussed was valuation of oil, gas, and coal for royalty purposes. Long-standing regulations governing valuation were amended by the Consolidated Federal Oil and Gas and Federal and Indian Coal Valuation Reform Rule, which was to take effect on January 1, 2017, but was stayed, then repealed, after discovery of certain difficulties in implementation. The Committee has been tasked with determining the need for regulatory change that is consistent with this administration's goals of increasing domestic energy production and revenues while reducing regulatory burdens.

After the members were briefed on these issues, three subcommittees were formed: *the Subcommittee on Fair Return and Revenue*, which will review fair market return from resources produced on public lands; *the Subcommittee on Planning, Analysis, and Competitiveness*, which will assess the economic modeling used by the Department, present and future royalty rates, and ways to increase revenues and competition; and *the Subcommittee on Indian Affairs*, which will address issues specific to Tribal lands and trust.



The Committee is composed of 28 state, Tribal, and other stakeholder representatives. This is the first time the Committee has featured a member from the renewable energy sector. The Chairman is Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy, and the Executive Director is James Schindler.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-05T15:47:04-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: 2 Heritage Foundation Events & 1 Co-hosted by Sutherland Institute - "A Vision for American Energy Dominance" and "National Monuments and the Communities They Impact: Views Beyond the Beltway"
Received: 2017-10-05T15:48:40-04:00

Esteemed DOI & POTUS Suppoters,

Here is the link to Secretary Zinke's speech at Heritage Foundation - A Vision for American Energy Dominance on 9/29/17:

<http://www.heritage.org/event/vision-american-energy-dominance>

Also here is the link from yesterday's event at The Heritage Foundation Co-hosted by the Sutherland Institute:

<http://www.heritage.org/event/national-monuments-and-the-communities-they-impact-views-beyond-the-beltway>

(details below)

Description:

On April 26, 2017, President Trump directed the Department of the Interior to review National Monuments created since 1996 under the Antiquities Act of 1906. What followed was a heated debate about the role of federal lands in society, the impact National Monument designations have on states and local communities, the power of the President to review the decisions of his predecessors under the Antiquities Act, and the growing need for reform. Much misinformation has been spread, reaching even to the basics of what a national monument designation entails and how they are different than America's national parks....

Featuring:

The Honorable Mike Lee (R-UT), United States Senator

The Honorable Rob Bishop (R-UT), United States Representative

Ryan Benally, Member of the Navajo Nation

Bob Meyers, Executive Director, Maine Snowmobile Association

Grant Moore, President, Atlantic Offshore Lobsterman's Association

Boyd Matheson, President, Sutherland Institute

Matthew Anderson, Director, Coalition of Self-Government in the West, Sutherland Institute

Hannah Downey, Research Fellow, Property and Environment Research Center

R.J. Smith, Distinguished Fellow, Center for Energy and Environment, Competitive Enterprise Institute and Senior Fellow, National Center for Public Policy Research

Katie Tubb, Policy Analyst, Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation (*Moderator*)

Start and end time of speakers in the video and brief notes on each speech below

Event Starts at: 8min 15sec w/ **Boyd Matheson - President of Sutherland Institute**

Congressman Rob Bishop at: 13:00 in until 23:25 (Great speech! Strong desire to reform Antiquities Act, existing and ignored legal precedent for Presidents reducing national monument designations)

Senator Mike Lee at: 31:20 - 53:05 (Strong support of Secretary/POTUS review, supports anything needed legislatively; wants Antiquities Act reform; calls for better management of existing federal land which is a priority for our Secretary)

Ryan Benally - Navajo Nation/Iraq War Veteran - starts at: 01:05.25 - 01:15.20 (11 federal laws already protect land/antiquities/Bears Ears NM; issue w/ vehicles & chainsaws being prohibited at Bears Ears NM)

Bob Meyers - Maine Snowmobile Association - starts at 01:15.40 - 01:22.25 (gives background of Katadhin Woods and Waters National Monument)

Grant Moore - Atlantic Offshore Lobsterman's Association - starts at: 01:23.10 - 01:31.30 (family owned/operated fishing industry across the New England area is being devastated by the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Marine Monuments. Fisherman need to be able to fish the same waters they have for generations)

Followed by Panel discussion with **Katie Tubb** (Policy Analyst w/ Heritage Foundation and moderator), **Matthew Anderson** (Sutherland Institute), **Hannah Downey** (PERC) and **RJ Smith** (CEI)

Matthew Anderson (Sutherland Institute) - comment for those opposing excess executive power 02:16.52 - 02:18.15

Both were wonderful events!

MAGA,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Chrissy Harbin
Sent: 2017-10-05T16:47:13-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: 2 Heritage Foundation Events & 1 Co-hosted by Sutherland Institute - "A Vision for American Energy Dominance" and "National Monuments and the Communities They Impact: Views Beyond the Beltway"
Received: 2017-10-05T16:47:56-04:00

Thank you! Great stuff. Swamped with tax reform right now, so I appreciate you pushing this stuff our way.

From: "Funes, Jason" <jason_funes@ios.doi.gov>
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 3:47 PM
Subject: 2 Heritage Foundation Events & 1 Co hosted by Sutherland Institute "A Vision for American Energy Dominance" and "National Monuments and the Communities They Impact: Views Beyond the Beltway"

Esteemed DOI & POTUS Suppoters,

Here is the link to Secretary Zinke's speech at Heritage Foundation - A Vision for American Energy Dominance on 9/29/17:

<http://www.heritage.org/event/vision-american-energy-dominance>

Also here is the link from yesterday's event at The Heritage Foundation Co-hosted by the Sutherland Institute:

<http://www.heritage.org/event/national-monuments-and-the-communities-they-impact-views-beyond-the-beltway>

(details below)

Description:

On April 26, 2017, President Trump directed the Department of the Interior to review National Monuments created since 1996 under the Antiquities Act of 1906. What followed was a heated debate about the role of federal lands in society, the impact National Monument designations have on states and local communities, the power of the President to review the decisions of his predecessors under the Antiquities Act, and the growing need for reform. Much misinformation has been spread, reaching even to the basics of what a national monument designation entails and how they are different than America's national parks....

Featuring:

The Honorable Mike Lee (R-UT), United States Senator

The Honorable Rob Bishop (R-UT), United States Representative

Ryan Benally, Member of the Navajo Nation

Bob Meyers, Executive Director, Maine Snowmobile Association

Grant Moore, President, Atlantic Offshore Lobsterman's Association

Boyd Matheson, President, Sutherland Institute

Matthew Anderson, Director, Coalition of Self-Government in the West, Sutherland Institute

Hannah Downey, Research Fellow, Property and Environment Research Center

R.J. Smith, Distinguished Fellow, Center for Energy and Environment, Competitive Enterprise Institute and Senior Fellow, National Center for Public Policy Research

Katie Tubb, Policy Analyst, Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation (*Moderator*)

Start and end time of speakers in the video and brief notes on each speech below

Event Starts at: 8min 15sec w/ **Boyd Matheson - President of Sutherland Institute**

Congressman Rob Bishop at: 13:00 in until 23:25 (Great speech! Strong desire to reform Antiquities Act, existing and ignored legal precedent for Presidents reducing national monument designations)

Senator Mike Lee at: 31:20 - 53:05 (Strong support of Secretary/POTUS review, supports anything needed legislatively; wants Antiquities Act reform; calls for better management of existing federal land which is a priority for our Secretary)

Ryan Benally - Navajo Nation/Iraq War Veteran - starts at: 01:05.25 - 01:15.20 (11 federal laws already protect land/antiquities/Bears Ears NM; issue w/ vehicles & chainsaws being prohibited at Bears Ears NM)

Bob Meyers - Maine Snowmobile Association - starts at 01:15.40 - 01:22.25 (gives background of Katadhin Woods and Waters National Monument)

Grant Moore - Atlantic Offshore Lobsterman's Association - starts at: 01:23.10 - 01:31.30 (family owned/operated fishing industry across the New England area is being devastated by the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Marine Monuments. Fisherman need to be

able to fish the same waters they have for generations)

Followed by Panel discussion with **Katie Tubb** (Policy Analyst w/ Heritage Foundation and moderator), **Matthew Anderson** (Sutherland Institute), **Hannah Downey** (PERC) and **RJ Smith** (CEI)

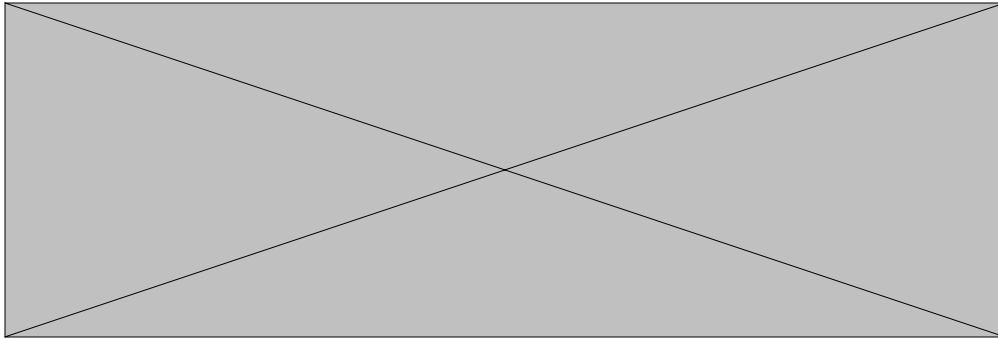
Matthew Anderson (Sutherland Institute) - comment for those opposing excess executive power 02:16.52 - 02:18.15

Both were wonderful events!

MAGA,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-06T16:18:40-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: BLM third quarter oil and gas lease sales hit combined \$170.7 million
Received: 2017-10-06T16:19:14-04:00



Date: October 6, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

BLM third quarter oil and gas lease sales hit combined \$170.7 million

This year's sales pace is at \$316.2 million, exceeding that of 2016

WASHINGTON In keeping with the Administration's goals of promoting America's energy dominance, seven Bureau of Land Management state offices generated \$170.7 million in bonus bids during their quarterly oil and gas lease sales. Among these sales, rights to a total of 218 parcels, covering 134,834.71 acres were sold.

"Oil and gas lease sales on federal land directly support domestic energy production and President Trump's energy dominance goals for America," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "These sales provide critical revenue and job growth in rural America. We will continue to work to cut the red tape and improve processes to ensure regulations serve their intended purpose."

"These successful lease sales reflect our sound energy policy, which draws from the vast, untapped energy reserves right here in America," **said acting BLM Director Michael D. Nedd**.

BLM New Mexico had the largest sale of the quarter, generating approximately \$130.9 million in bonus bids on Sept. 7. Wyoming held the second-largest sale of the quarter on Sept. 21, generating \$38.7 million in bonus bids.

BLM Colorado's sale, held on Sept. 7, totaled \$602,088 in bonus bids. In BLM Montana/Dakotas, bonus bids totaled \$305,802 in a sale held Sept. 12. Sales that same day in Nevada and Utah brought in \$33,120 and \$8,204, respectively. In Eastern States, bonus bids

totaled \$201,018 in lease sales held on Sept. 21.

The Sept. 7 sale in New Mexico is also the largest federal onshore sale so far this year, followed by an earlier sale in Wyoming, in February, which generated nearly \$129 million in bonus bids.

“The Secretary’s strategy for energy dominance is working and will continue to bear fruit,” **said Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy, Vincent DeVito**. “This pace is a reflection of our responsible energy policy and administrative changes that are making Interior a better place to do business.”

"This is a strong step towards restoring trust and partnership with our local communities who rely on our responsible energy leasing as a source of job growth and revenue to States to fund schools, fire and police services, roads and bridges and other municipal needs," **said Katharine MacGregor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals**. "Energy development on public lands is a win-win for our nation's energy future as well as economic growth in rural America."

Fifty percent of the revenue from lease sales goes to the state where the oil and gas activity is occurring, while the rest goes to the U.S. Treasury. If producing wells are produced on the lease parcel, the royalties paid on the Federal minerals are also shared with the state.

This year's pace of lease sales has exceeded that of calendar year 2016 in terms of number of sales held and bonus bids.

For example, with this quarter's sales, the BLM has held 20 of the scheduled 29 onshore oil and gas lease sales this year around the nation. Those sales combined have brought in \$316.2 million in bonus bids. This contrasts with all of 2016, during which time the BLM held 20 onshore oil and gas lease sales and generated \$192.5 million in bonus bids.

A bonus bid is a one-time payment in exchange for exclusive access to explore a parcel and grants an exclusive lease for a set period of time. The BLM awards oil and gas leases for a term of 10 years and as long thereafter as there is production of oil and gas in paying quantities.

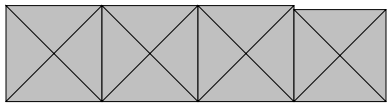
The BLM’s all-of-the-above approach to energy development includes oil and gas, coal, strategic minerals and renewable sources, such as wind, solar, and geothermal, which can all be developed on public lands.

The BLM’s policy is to promote oil and gas development if it meets the guidelines and regulations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and other subsequent laws and policies passed by the U.S. Congress. The sales are also in line with the Trump administration’s America First Energy Plan, which includes development of fossil fuels and coal, as well as renewable energy.

In fiscal year 2016, oil and gas development on BLM-managed lands supported 201,000 jobs nationwide and contributed more than \$42 billion in output to the U.S. economy.

For more information about BLM oil and gas lease sales, please visit <https://on.doi.gov/2t45Re8>.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-11T18:02:21-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: *** Your Feedback Requested *** POTUS and Secretary Zinke Need YOU to Help Roll Back Over Burdensome Regulations
Received: 2017-10-11T18:09:37-04:00

Esteemed MAGA Colleagues,
Interior has established a Regulatory Reform Task Force, which is guiding implementation of regulatory reform to alleviate unnecessary burdens placed on the American people.

On February 24, 2017, President Trump signed Executive Order 13777 entitled, "Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda" to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens placed on the American people.

****This is a call to action****

Please click on the link below to comment on how you can help our 8 major departments roll back over burdensome regulations and restore our nation to economic prosperity for ALL Americans.

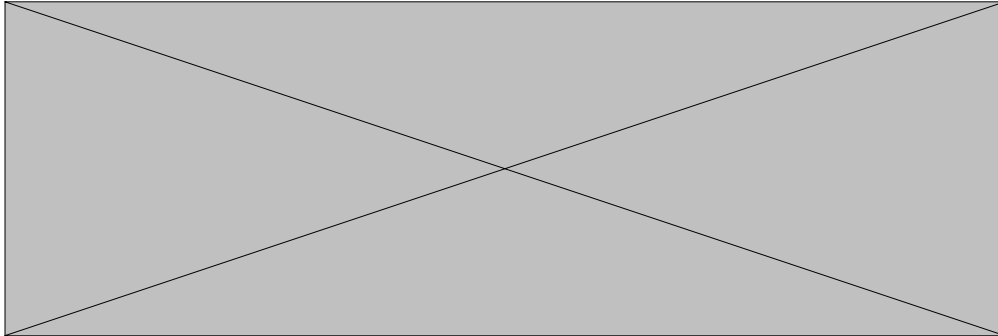
<https://www.doi.gov/regulatory-reform/implement>

Our Secretary is very appreciative of your input.

Thank you,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-13T13:34:41-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Outlines Action Plan to Combat Harassment and Discrimination
Received: 2017-10-13T13:35:54-04:00



Date: October 13, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Outlines Action Plan to Combat Harassment and Discrimination

Survey finds 38% of NPS employees harassed, discriminated against

GRAND CANYON, AZ Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Acting Director of the National Park Service Mike Reynolds announced an immediate action plan to combat the widespread and pervasive culture of harassment and discrimination throughout the National Park Service (NPS). The action plan will ensure that employees, especially managers, are held accountable when harassment is found. They also released the results of a NPS survey of employees which found 38 percent of employees had experienced harassment or discrimination of some kind while on the job.

“From day one, I made it clear that I have zero tolerance for harassment in the workplace, and I directed leadership in the National Park Service to move rapidly to improve accountability and transparency,” **Secretary Zinke said.** “All employees have the right to work in an environment that is safe and harassment-free. I’ve removed a number of people who were abusive or acted improperly that other administrations were too afraid to or just turned a blind eye to. Under my leadership we’re going to hold people accountable. We are also fixing the problem of victims being afraid of retaliation or inaction by codifying the right for victims to report abuse to any manager in any location across the Service, and by bringing on an independent, investigative partner.”

The NPS Work Environment Survey found that 10.4% of NPS employees experienced sexual harassment in the last 12 months, 19.3% experienced gender harassment, and 0.95% reported experiencing sexual assault. The report also looked at harassment more broadly, measuring

harassment based on age, race or ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation and sexual assault. Overall, 38.7% of employees reported experiencing some form of harassment in the last 12 months and survey results indicate many experienced some form of harassment prior to the last 12 months.

“Harassment has no place in the National Park Service, and our leadership is committed to a new approach to harassment that emphasizes accountability and respect in the workplace,” **said Acting Director Michael T. Reynolds**. “We believe that a multi-disciplinary approach that includes policy change, consistent discipline, training, and employee empowerment will reduce harassment and respond quickly when it is identified. We are directly engaging with employees at all levels of the organization to ensure that this action plan meets their needs and is effective on the ground.”

Along with the release of the NPS Work Environment Survey, the agency outlined a series of action items to increase accountability and respond to harassment across the organization. The NPS is:

- Standardizing and strengthening policies on harassment: The NPS is implementing a new, fully accountable system that will efficiently review allegations of harassment. The NPS anti-harassment policy has been strengthened by defining more broadly what would be prohibited harassing conduct to ensure that employees can be held accountable for harassing conduct even if such behavior may not rise to the level of illegal harassment under EEO laws. Although not every instance of harassing conduct may fit the legal definition of harassment, such behavior in the workplace undermines morale and the mission of the Service. A director’s order outlining the new policy, and an accompanying reference manual will ensure that a thorough and consistent review of all harassment allegations is completed. The new policy ensures that every NPS employee understands his or her responsibility to prevent, report and respond to harassment in the workplace.
- Increasing capacity to investigate and address harassment complaints: NPS is increasing its Employee Relations and Labor Relations staff with ten additional employees and the Ethics staff with four additional employees to improve the capacity to investigate and resolve allegations and incidents of harassment efficiently.
- Expanding training to support harassment prevention efforts: NPS is prioritizing a number of learning and performance support options to empower employees, supervisors and managers with the knowledge, skills, and resources to help prevent harassment and improve work environments. Elements include bystander training, civil treatment for leaders, and investigation methods for Employee and Labor Relation Specialists across the NPS.
- Support employee voices: NPS continues to support and collaborate with Employee Resource Groups, including the Women’s Employee Resource Group, launched in April 2017. In addition, the NPS continues to support its successful Ombuds program, develop additional job aids and resources for supervisors, improve internal communications structure, deploy a team of peer and professional facilitators, and continues to identify and tackle the root causes of harassment and hostile work environments in its organizational culture.

The survey found that 74.7% of employees who experienced harassment did not file a report or complaint about the behavior. Of those who chose not to report, 45.9% thought nothing would be done if they filed a report or complaint, and 33% did not trust the process. Consequently, the NPS action plan emphasizes changes that will ensure timely, appropriate and decisive responses to allegations. The NPS action plan is targeted to increase confidence by: increasing the number of ethics officers, strengthening management performance standards to ensure that leaders are held accountable on these issues, establishing a standard process that elevates harassment claims quickly for appropriate investigation and action, and ensuring that appropriate disciplinary action is taken.

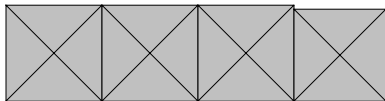
“This Administration is making fundamental changes that create accountability in the system and will deliver timely, appropriate and decisive responses to allegations,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “Employees deserve better, and we will ensure that leadership at every level of the National Park Service is held accountable for ensuring that harassment claims are investigated, and appropriate discipline results when the evidence supports it.”

Almost 50% of NPS employees participated in the Work Environment Survey between January 9 and March 5, 2017, and the report released today includes the findings from that period. A second opportunity for new and seasonal employees to take the survey was conducted between July 24 and September 15, 2017, and the agency will release the results of the second survey period once the analysis is complete.

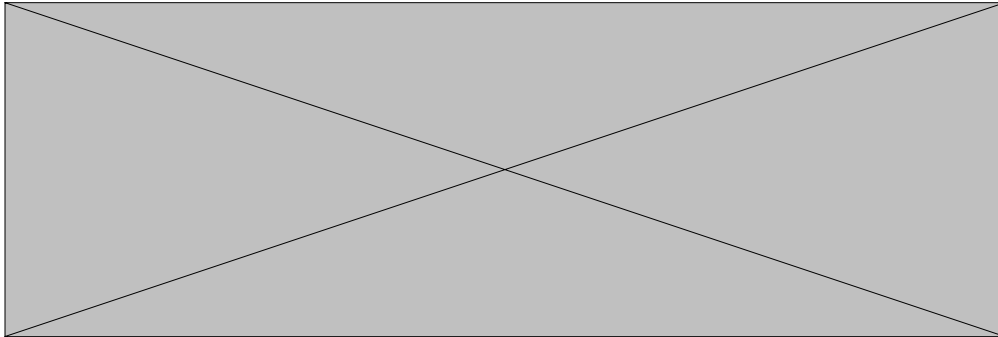
Some parks affected by harassment, including Yellowstone and Grand Canyon National Parks, have conducted informal surveys and focus groups to better understand the experience of employees and respond locally to workplace dynamics where harassment has been documented.

CFI Group, a third-party contractor to the Department of the Interior, conducted the survey and developed the report that was released today.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-17T11:03:34-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Alaska Native Leader Tara Mac Lean Sweeney Becomes First Female Native Alaskan Nominated for Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs
Received: 2017-10-17T11:04:08-04:00



Date: October 17, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Alaska Native Leader Tara Mac Lean Sweeney Becomes First Female Native Alaskan Nominated for Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs

Sweeney would be the first Alaska Native to hold the position

WASHINGTON Today, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke applauded President Donald J. Trump's nomination of Tara Mac Lean Sweeney, a prominent Alaska Native leader and acclaimed businesswoman with the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, to be the department's next Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Sweeney, a member of the Native Village of Barrow and the Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, would be the first Native Alaskan and only the second woman in history to hold the position.

The Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs oversees Interior's manifold responsibilities to enhance the quality of life, promote economic opportunity and provide quality educational opportunities for American Indians, Indian tribes and Alaska Natives, while protecting and improving their trust assets.

"Tara is a results-driven team leader and coalition builder who has an impressive combination of business acumen and service to her community," **Secretary Zinke said**. "Her lifelong active engagement in Native American policy development and her outreach, advocacy, and organization skills are the combination we need to carry out the President's reform initiative for Indian Country. I look forward to welcoming her to our leadership team."

"I am honored to be nominated to serve Indian Country in this capacity," **Tara Sweeney said**.

“My goal is to develop strong relationships with Tribes, Alaska Native corporations and Native Hawaiian Organizations to work on innovative solutions for lifting up our communities. I am motivated to work with Indian Country to find efficiencies inside the Bureau of Indian Affairs, improve service delivery and culturally relevant curriculum in the Bureau of Indian Education, and create a more effective voice for Tribes throughout the Federal Government. I am humbled by the confidence President Trump and Secretary Zinke have shown in me and ready to serve.”

“Secretary Zinke’s nomination of Tara Sweeney for Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs taps a strong advocate for Native American self-determination and tribal self-government for this key leadership position,” **said Acting Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs John Tahsuda**. “Her extensive organizational knowledge and collaborative management experience will well serve Indian Country by reforming federal policies, empowering tribal communities, and removing barriers to their economic advancement.”

Sweeney grew up in rural Alaska and has spent a lifetime actively engaged in state and national policy arenas focused on advocating for responsible Indian energy policy, rural broadband connectivity, Arctic growth and Native American self-determination. She has served her Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and its subsidiaries in a variety of capacities for nearly two decades. The \$2.6 billion corporation is the largest locally-owned and operated business in Alaska, with about 13,000 Iñupiat Eskimo members and 12,000 employees worldwide. It is diversified in six major business sectors, including energy support services, industrial services, construction, petroleum refining and marketing, government services, and resource development.

In her current role as the Executive Vice President of External Affairs, she is responsible for all facets of government affairs and corporate communications. Her primary responsibilities include strategic policy and position development, implementation and execution; engagement with federal and state executive and legislative branches on improving policies affecting Indian energy, taxation, resource development, government contracting, broadband development and access to capital; as well as all facets of corporate communication as official company spokesperson, including stakeholder engagement and coalition building.

Sweeney also has served in leadership positions on numerous business and nonprofit boards at both the state and national level, including chair of the Arctic Economic Council from 2015 to 2017; co-chair of the Alaska Federation of Natives (2013); Coast Guard Foundation Board of Trustees; the University of Alaska Foundation Board of Trustees; FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in a Digital Age; Analytical Services, Inc.; Kohanic Broadcast Corporation (parent to the first Native American owned, publicly supported FM radio station); Cherokee Nation New Market Tax Credit Advisory Board (CNB Economic Development Company, LLC, beneficiary); Breast Cancer Focus, Inc.; and Arctic Power.

“I extend my congratulations and full support to Tara on her nomination to serve as Assistant Secretary,” **Senator Lisa Murkowski said**. “Tara has a very strong record of professionalism and accomplishment in Alaska, across the country, and internationally, especially with the indigenous people of the circumpolar north. She has significant experience on Arctic issues and chaired the Arctic Economic Council. She is an expert on energy, infrastructure, broadband, economic development, Native self-determination, and a wide range of policy issues that will come before her. Secretary Zinke could not have chosen a better leader to help him fulfill the

federal government's trust responsibility, and I know Tara has the heart and drive to excel in this position."

"This is a historic appointment for Alaskans and for the country," **Senator Dan Sullivan said.** "I've worked with Tara Sweeney for years and I have witnessed first-hand her integrity, her strong leadership skills and her devotion to public service. Tara has a deep love for our state and people, and is relentless in her commitment to securing a better future for Alaska and the nation. With her long history of advocating for Alaska Native cultural values, rights, and economic opportunity, I can't think of anyone better to have as our nation's next Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs."

"This is an absolutely outstanding choice," **said Congressman Don Young.** "Tara's knowledge, experience and leadership will go a long way in straightening out the BIA, allowing it to run more efficiently for the good of all First Americans. She has extensive experience not only in business, but also within Alaska Native groups and organizations. Tara knows first-hand the fight for Native empowerment and self-determination because she's been on the front lines for years. There's long been a problem with Native issues not receiving the priority they deserve but with Tara Sweeney at the helm, I have no doubt the Department of Interior will be paying close attention and the voices of our Native communities will be heard. Tara follows in great Alaskan footsteps, those of my dear friend Morris Thompson, and will do a fantastic job working on behalf of American Indians and Alaska Natives across the country."

"Tara's selection for this position is cause for celebration in Alaska. In each of my conversations with Secretary Zinke, I have encouraged him to include Alaskans for significant roles in his department," **said Governor Walker.** "Tara's leadership in seeking self-determination and economic development for the people of the Arctic has been exemplary. As an Inupiaq tribal and corporate leader, she has sought the necessary balance between economic development and sustaining the ways of life and cultures of Alaska's First People. While many will be sad to see her leave ASRC, Tara's expertise will serve our state and nation well in this new role."

"I commend the Secretary for his choice of Tara Sweeney for the Position of Assistant Secretary," **said Jackie Johnson Pata with the National Congress of American Indians.** "Tara's diverse experience in the areas of energy, natural resources, and tribal governance will be a welcome addition to the Department of Interior and NCAI looks forward to working with Tara in her new capacity."

"Since March when he was sworn in, Secretary Zinke has been assembling a top-notch team of professionals to help him lead the Interior Department," **said John Berrey, Chairman of the Quapaw Tribe in Oklahoma.** "With Tara Sweeney's nomination, the Secretary is showing he means business when it comes to reforming the BIA and improving the delivery of services to Indian people. Tara's long and dedicated service to the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and, most recently, the Arctic Economic Council, will be what is needed in the BIA's top official. I thank the secretary for this nomination and pledge to help Tara achieve success for Native people any way I can."

"Ms. Sweeney's background consists of the right elements to assist our economic development

efforts with the tribes we serve in Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota towards economic sustainability,” **said Leonard Smith, Executive Director of the Native American Development Corporation.** “Her experience in energy, capital, government contracting and economic development give her the depth of knowledge to develop legislative solutions to federal policies that hinder economic development with tribal nations. We feel confident she will be able to promote stronger federal support through collaboration with other federal, state and private resources for implementation of the infrastructure necessary for economic growth and sustainability.”

“In these critical times, Ms. Tara Sweeney will serve as a strong Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs,” **said Julie Kitka, President of the Alaska Federation of Natives.** “Her experience with empowering Native Americans is unparalleled and she will help all tribes achieve great self-determination. There is not a Tribe or Alaska Native corporation that she would not help. I have had the opportunity to work alongside Ms. Sweeney for over a decade, I’ve seen her in action and she is driven by results.”

"Ms Sweeney is an incredibly qualified nominee," **said Robin Puanani Danner, the Policy Chair for the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement.** "Her business experience, the cultural grounding of her Inuit people, and her keen understanding of living in some of the most remote Native areas in the country will serve all first peoples in her role at the department of interior."

“Tara is a dedicated, hard-working and fearless leader focused on providing value and real results across local, national and international boundaries,” **said Gabriel Kompkoff, President of the ANCSA Regional Association, the membership association of Alaska Native Regional Corporation CEOs.** “Her passion shows through in every challenge she faces.”

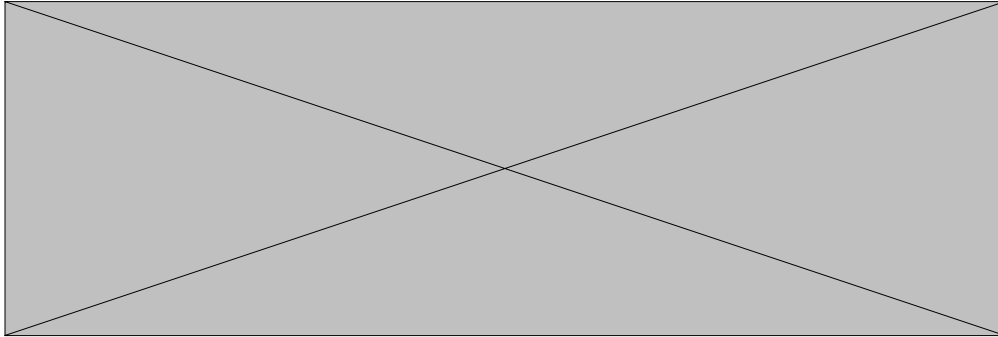
Among her honors, Sweeney -- a lifetime member of the National Congress of American Indians -- was crowned Miss NCAI in 1993 and traveled the country as an ambassador for the organization. In 2003, Governor Frank Murkowski recognized Sweeney’s passion for rural Alaska, appointing her to his cabinet as Special Assistant for Rural Affairs and Education. In 2008 she was honored as a “Top Forty Under 40” business leader by the Alaska Journal of Commerce. In 2014 her team was honored by the Northwest Regional Emmy Awards, for its IAM IÑUPIAQ commercial campaign 2014, and also served as co-chair for Senator Dan Sullivan’s (R-AK) successful Senate campaign. In 2017 she was inducted into the Anchorage ATHENA Society, a program of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce that encourages the potential of women as valued members and leaders of the business community.

Born to Dr. Bryan Mac Lean and the Late Representative Eileen Panigeo Mac Lean, Sweeney is the granddaughter of the Late May Ahmaogak Panigeo and the Late Henry Panigeo of Barrow. She is the great granddaughter of the Late Bert and Nellie Panigeo and Isabel and Dr. Roy Ahmaogak. She was raised, attended schools and lived most of her life in rural Alaska in villages from Noorvik to Wainwright, Barrow, Bethel, and Unalakleet. She graduated from Barrow High School in 1991. A 1998 graduate of Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations with a Bachelor of Science Degree, Sweeney currently lives in Anchorage with her husband Kevin, and their two children, Caitlin and Ahmaogak.

Through its Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), Interior provides services (directly or through contracts, grants or compacts) to 1.9 million American Indians and Alaska Natives. There are 567 federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Native corporations in the United States. The BIE provides education services to about 42,000 Indian students. The Indian trust, co-managed by BIA and the Office of the Special Trustee, consists of 55 million surface acres and 57 million acres of subsurface mineral estate. More than 11 million acres belong to individual Indians and nearly 44 million acres are held in trust for Indian tribes. On these lands, the Department manages more than 122,817 revenue-producing leases. In conjunction with the Department of the Treasury, Interior, also manages about \$4.9 billion in Indian trust funds. In Fiscal Year 2016, \$1.2 billion was received into and disbursed from tribal and individual Indian beneficiaries' accounts.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-20T15:22:48-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Supports California Wildfire Suppression Efforts
Received: 2017-10-20T15:23:31-04:00



Date: October 20, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Supports California Wildfire Suppression Efforts

Federal personnel and resources contributing to state, local containment response

WASHINGTON The Department of the Interior, along with its Federal and non-Federal firefighting partners, are supporting the on-going efforts of California state and local firefighters who are leading the combined effort to suppress wildfires that have largely impacted state, local, and private lands. Nearly 10,000 Federal firefighters are working with state and local firefighters on six large fires in California. Across the Nation this year, more than 51,500 wildfires have burned 8.8 million acres of Federal, State, Tribal and private lands.

“The tragic events in California are a stark reminder of the devastating impacts that wildfires can have on lives and communities,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “We must be innovative and work diligently with all of our state and local partners to help prevent future losses through management solutions that will benefit current victims as well as generations to come. These wildfires are not only financially costly but also threaten the lives and safety of both the public and firefighters. The Department is identifying ways to address the realities we face in a safer and more effective manner, as we simply cannot afford to continue business as usual.”

In September, Secretary Zinke directed Interior bureaus, superintendents and land managers at all levels to [adopt more aggressive practices](#), using the full authority of the Department, to prevent and combat the spread of catastrophic wildfires through robust fuels reduction and pre-suppression techniques.

The collaborative firefighter efforts are making good progress in containing the fires currently burning in California. Federal wildland firefighting resources outside of California have pulled

together late in the season to assist the local and State response. As of last week, the Department has deployed nearly 500 personnel, thirty-nine engines, and numerous aerial resources, including three helicopters and one lead aircraft.

In addition, a 20-member Type 2 handcrew from American Samoa, based at the National Park of American Samoa on the island of Pago Pago, returned to its home base in the South Pacific after completing its firefighting mission. The crew assisted on fires in Trinity County and near Weaverville, California. “It’s great to have the crew back safe in Samoa,” **said National Park Superintendent Scott Burch**. “They’re a talented crew and very enthusiastic about helping out on mainland fires. They look forward to helping out in the future as the need arises.”

In addition to the National Park Service crews, other firefighting resources were provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Only a week ago, many California wildfires were less than 10 percent contained. Improved weather conditions this week are expected to help firefighters reach near or full containment on most wildfires.

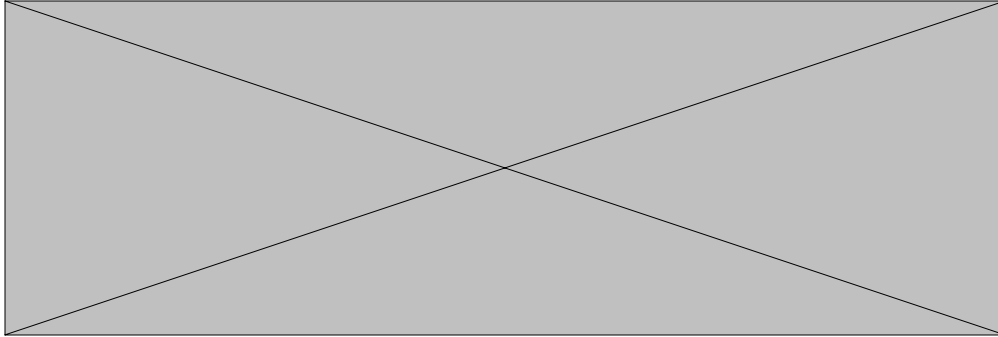
Wildfire activity was above average this year, far surpassing the 10-year average of 5.7 million acres burned. The National Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (NMAC) elevated the National Fire Preparedness Level to “5”, the highest level NMAC declares, on August 10, 2017. The fire season appeared to begin its natural decline, as National Fire Preparedness Level was lowered to “4” on September 19, Preparedness Level “3” on September 22, and Preparedness Level “2” on October 2, 2017. The Preparedness Level was raised back to 3 on October 11, 2017, as additional resources were needed to address the wildfires in California.

Effectively carrying out our firefighting responsibilities in a safe and responsible manner is a major priority for the Department. Having robust and well-trained firefighters is critical to protecting local communities and our nation’s natural resources. The Department actively engages all stakeholders, including other Federal agencies, Tribes, State and local representatives and congressional members and staff, to determine how best to promote the health and safety of the public and firefighters, safeguard communities and protect resources on public and private lands.

The strength of the wildfire suppression system in the United States is based on a standard of shared resources among Federal, Tribal, State, local, and volunteer wildland fire agencies that share firefighters, engines, aircraft and other assets and equipment.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-24T10:44:50-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Announces Largest Oil & Gas Lease Sale in U.S. History
Received: 2017-10-24T10:45:41-04:00



Date: October 24, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
John Filostrat (BOEM) 504-731-7815
john.filostrat@boem.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces Largest Oil & Gas Lease Sale in U.S. History

March 2018 sale to offer 76.9 million acres in Gulf of Mexico

NEW ORLEANS U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced that the Department is proposing the largest oil and gas lease sale ever held in the United States -- 76,967,935 acres in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The proposed region-wide lease sale, offering an area about the size of New Mexico, is scheduled for March 2018 and includes all available unleased areas on the Gulf's Outer Continental Shelf, surpassing last year's region-wide lease sale by about one million acres.

"In today's low-price energy environment, providing the offshore industry access to the maximum amount of opportunities possible is part of our strategy to spur local and regional economic dynamism and job creation and a pillar of President Trump's plan to make the United States energy dominant," **Secretary Zinke said**. "And the economic terms proposed for this sale include a range of incentives to encourage diligent development and ensure a fair return to taxpayers."

Proposed Lease Sale 250, which will be livestreamed from New Orleans, will be the second offshore sale under the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022. Lease Sale 249, held in New Orleans last August, received \$121 million in high bids. In addition to the high bids and rental payments, the Department will receive royalty payments on

any future production from these leases. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease revenues are directed to the U.S. Treasury, Gulf Coast states, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Historic Preservation Fund.

“In order to strengthen America’s energy dominance, we must anticipate and plan for our needs for decades to come,” **said Senator Lisa Murkowski, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources.** “The administration’s decision to move forward with the largest offshore lease sale in our nation’s history is a key part of that effort. Whether in Alaska or the Gulf of Mexico, we should all support responsible development because it creates high-paying jobs, strengthens national security, and keeps energy affordable for our families and businesses.”

“President Trump’s team is following through on their commitment to advancing America’s energy independence,” **said Senator Roger Wicker.** “Unlike the previous administration, this one understands that expanded offshore energy development benefits working families, consumers, and our national security. This is a win for Mississippi and the entire country.”

“President Trump and his administration are following through on their promise to end the war on American energy,” **said Senator Bill Cassidy.** “Investing in energy creates better jobs with better benefits for working families, strengthens our national security and strengthens our energy independence.”

“This is great news that our oil and gas industry in Louisiana sorely needs. This is the largest sale in U.S. history, and it will create jobs and bolster our state and national economy,” **said Senator John Kennedy.** “Our Louisiana workers are ready to go back to work.”

“President Donald Trump made clear his desire to ensure Americans can use our own natural resources to produce the energy vital to our economy and national security,” **said Alabama Governor Kay Ivey.** “As he has done time and again, President Trump has proven to the people of Alabama that he is a man of his word, and we are grateful to him and to Secretary Ryan Zinke for their determination to open a vast tract of American waters to oil and gas exploration. This decision is not only in the best interest of all Americans, it allows Gulf Coast states, like Alabama, to utilize our natural resources not only to provide energy for our nation, but increased economic opportunities for our people.”

“Mississippi welcomes Secretary Zinke’s action to carry out the president’s vision for American energy dominance,” **said Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant.** “This will strengthen our state’s status as a leader in oil and gas exploration and create good jobs for hardworking Mississippians.”

“If we’re serious about energy dominance and long-term energy affordability, we must create certainty about future access in the Outer Continental Shelf,” **said Congressman Rob Bishop, Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources.** “Secretary Zinke should be commended for his leadership to create that certainty and realign Interior as a partner for industry to advance responsible energy development. This is a welcomed announcement on that front. Congressionally, we will continue to move forward on a comprehensive overhaul of onshore and offshore federal lands energy policy to help Interior expand even greater access, streamline permitting and increase revenues to both states and the U.S. Treasury.”

“Secretary Zinke’s announcement is welcome news and I look forward to continuing to work with the administration to put consumer’s interests first while promoting job creation and modernizing our nation’s energy infrastructure,” **said Congressman Greg Walden, Chairman of the House Committee on Energy & Commerce.** “The president and his administration have placed energy independence and security at the top of their agenda, and this committee has been leading the way in examining policies that seek to streamline siting and permitting of the nation’s oil and gas pipelines.”

"President Trump has stated that he wants our country to exert 'energy dominance' throughout the world, and this lease sale is another bold step in that direction," **said House Majority Whip Steve Scalise.** "I applaud today's announcement by Secretary Ryan Zinke to offer the largest offshore oil and gas lease sale in U.S. history. My constituents in Southeast Louisiana will be leading the way in this exploration and development that will create good jobs and kickstart more economic growth. This bold action helps us continue fighting for the responsible development of our natural resources that bring critical dollars to restore our coast."

“As a long-time advocate for opening up more of the Gulf of Mexico, it’s refreshing to work with an Administration that understands it’s true energy potential,” **said Congressman Pete Olson.** "Oil production, when done safely and responsibly, is a win for Texas and the Gulf Coast economy, and adds to America’s energy security. I applaud Secretary Zinke for moving forward with this lease sale and hope these opportunities to tap into our energy potential continue.”

“Secretary Zinke’s announcement of the largest oil and gas lease sale in our country’s history is welcome news. The oil and gas industry provides thousands of direct and indirect jobs to the people of Mississippi,” **said Congressman Gregg Harper.** "This lease sale has the potential to create new opportunities for our state and nation as advances in technology continue to make the United States a world leader in natural resource production.”

“I applaud Secretary Zinke and the Department of Interior for their efforts to spur energy production and support communities along the Gulf Coast. Revenue from these leases will be a huge boost for Gulf states, like Alabama, and will help us continue conservation and preservation of our treasured coastal areas,” **said Congressman Bradley Byrne.** "Through developments like this, we can ensure American energy dominance and make life better for Gulf Coast families.”

The estimated amount of resources projected to be developed as a result of the proposed region-wide lease sale ranges from 0.21 to 1.12 billion barrels of oil and from 0.55 to 4.42 trillion cubic feet of gas. Most of the activity (up to 83% of future production) from the proposed lease sale is expected to occur in the Central Planning Area.

Proposed Lease Sale 250 includes 14,375 unleased blocks, located from 3 to 230 miles offshore, in the Gulf’s Western, Central and Eastern planning areas in water depths ranging from 9 to more than 11,115 feet (three to 3,400 meters). Excluded from the lease sale are blocks subject to the Congressional moratorium established by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap; and whole blocks and partial blocks within the current boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

“American energy production can be competitive while remaining safe and environmentally sound,” **said Vincent DeVito, Counselor for Energy Policy at Interior.** “People need jobs, the Gulf Coast states need revenue, and Americans do not want to be dependent on foreign oil. We have heard their message loud and clear.”

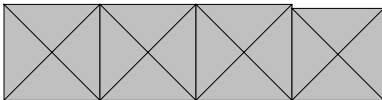
The lease sale terms include stipulations to protect biologically sensitive resources, mitigate potential adverse effects on protected species, and avoid potential conflicts associated with oil and gas development in the region. The terms and conditions for Lease Sale 250 in the Proposed Notice of Sale are not final. Different terms and conditions may be employed in the Final Notice of Sale, which will be published at least 30 days before the sale.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) estimates that the OCS contains about 90 billion barrels of undiscovered technically recoverable oil and 327 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered technically recoverable gas. The Gulf of Mexico OCS, covering about 160 million acres, has technically recoverable resources of over 48 billion barrels of oil and 141 trillion cubic feet of gas.

All terms and conditions for Gulf of Mexico Region-wide Sale 250 are detailed in the Proposed Notice of Sale (PNOS) information package, which is available at: <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-250/>. Copies of the PNOS maps can be requested from BOEM’s Gulf of Mexico Region’s Public Information Unit at [1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70123](http://www.boem.gov/1201-Elmwood-Park-Boulevard-New-Orleans-LA-70123), or at 800-200-GULF (4853).

The Notice of Availability of the PNOS will be available for inspection in the Federal Register on October 26, 2017 at: <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/public-inspection>.

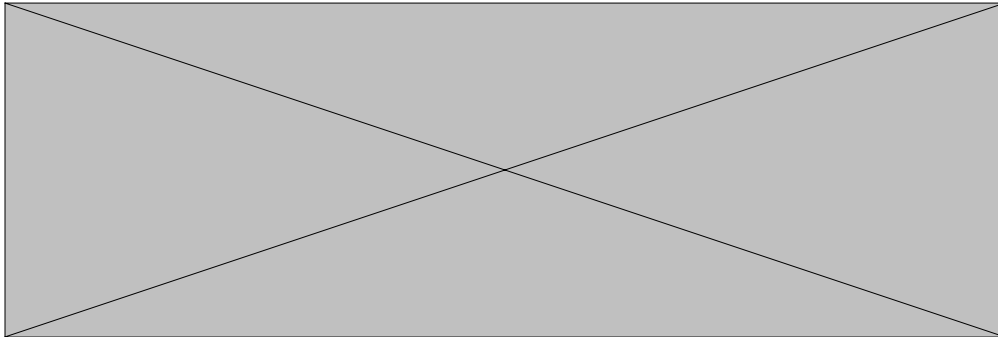
###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-25T15:08:49-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: GOING AT 2PM: Department of the Interior Releases Energy Burdens Report
Received: 2017-10-25T15:09:31-04:00
[DOI Submission for Publication.pdf](#)

To be released soon...

See attachment for detailed energy dominance related material...



Date: October 25, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Department of the Interior Releases Energy Burdens Report

Outlines Trump Administration's bold approach to achieving American energy dominance

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior released the "Review of the Department of the Interior Actions that Potentially Burden Domestic Energy" report which was produced in response to Executive Order 13783. The report identified agency actions that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources, with particular attention to oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear energy resources. Interior oversees America's oil, gas, coal, hydropower, and renewable energy resources produced on federal lands and waters, which account for almost one-fifth of the Nation's energy and generate on average \$10 billion per year in annual revenue.

"Developing our energy resources to grow our economy and protecting the environment are not mutually exclusive. However, while conducting the review outlined in the Executive Order, we found that several costly and burdensome regulations from the past threaten that balance by hampering the production or transmission of our domestic energy," **said Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "Our public lands are meant to be managed for the benefit of the people. That means a multiple-use approach where appropriate and making sure that multiple-use includes energy development under reasonable regulations. Following President Trump's leadership, Interior is fostering domestic energy production by streamlining permitting and

revising and repealing Obama-era job killing regulations all while doing so in an environmentally responsible way.”

“The federal government can and must be a better business partner,” **Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy, said.** “Secretary Zinke’s bold approach to achieving American energy dominance is making our nation freer, more secure, and more prosperous. Regulations should not unnecessarily burden energy production, but that is what occurs in many cases. The recent actions outlined in this energy report show how Interior is rolling back some of these burdensome regulations that add little or no value, while promoting responsible energy development.”

The report identified a number of burdens that specifically impede the production and transportation of energy resources, including, but not limited to:

- **Obama-Era 5-Year Program** Under the last Administration, 94% of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) was put off-limits from leasing, having an adverse effect on jobs and energy dominance, while drastically reducing access to future revenue.
 - Trump Administration Action: Secretarial Order 3350, America-First Offshore Energy Strategy started the process of developing a new 5-Year Program to responsibly develop the OCS and generate much-needed revenue.
- **Federal Coal Leasing Moratorium (Secretarial Order 3338, Discretionary Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Modernize the Federal Coal Program)** Nearly 40% of our nation's coal comes from public lands. The 2016 coal moratorium undermines American energy security, inhibits job creation, and reduces revenues to state and local governments.
 - Action: Secretarial Order 3348, Concerning the Federal Coal Moratorium repealed the Obama-era moratorium on new federal coal leases.
- **Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands Rule (RIN 1004-AE26)** The compliance costs of the existing 2015 rule on hydraulic fracturing are not justified. All 32 states with federal oil and gas leases and some tribes currently have laws or regulations that address hydraulic fracturing operations.
 - Action: Secretarial Order 3349: American Energy Independence put the rule under review. The BLM published a rulemaking to rescind the rule on July 25th.
- **Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation AKA the Venting and Flaring Rule (RIN 1004-AE14)** The rule imposes a substantial burden on industry, especially for marginal well production in energy-rich states like New Mexico, particularly the requirements that are set to become effective on January 17, 2018.
 - Action: Secretarial Order 3349: American Energy Independence put the rules under review for subsequent action by the Department. On October 5, 2017, the BLM issued a proposed rule to temporarily suspend certain requirements of the rule. The BLM is also actively reviewing the underlying regulation for potential revision.

- **Unnecessarily lengthy NEPA reviews delay projects** The NEPA process has added extra time and analysis to project completion, which adds to uncertainty for industry and higher costs for taxpayers. This is particularly true for Departmental actions that impact energy and infrastructure projects, such as resource management planning, permitting, and issuance of rights-of-way for pipeline projects and electricity transmission.

- Actions: The Department has identified a number of rules and regulations to revise or rescind such as the Master Leasing Plans, the NEPA Compliance for Oil and Gas Lease Reinstatement Petitions, and the Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plans. In addition, the Deputy Secretary issued an August memo setting a deadline of one year and limiting EIS statements to 150 pages or 300 pages for unusually complex projects.

- **Holding energy producers hostage via Compensatory Mitigation (Secretarial Order 3330)** Current compensatory mitigation policies have reduced predictability, created conflicts, and unnecessarily increased permitting/authorization timelines. Additionally, industry stakeholders believe the mitigation planning goal exceeds statutory authority. Currently, Interior and its bureaus lack a consistent terminology and framework for mitigation.

- Action: Secretarial Order 3349: American Energy Independence reexamined the use of mitigation policies and practices in order to better balance conservation strategies and job creation. Bureaus at the Interior will review various handbooks and manuals on the use of mitigation for energy and infrastructure projects.

- **Systematic delays in the leasing program and permitting process** The long period from when acreage is first nominated to when those acres are offered at a lease sale, as well as delays between the lease sale date and when leases are awarded reduces industry certainty and hinders states from receiving their share of lease sale revenues. These delays have rendered industry less able to plan for and execute exploration and production strategies in a timely fashion, and less able to respond effectively to changing market conditions.

- Action: Secretarial Order 3354 Supporting and Improving the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Federal Solid Mineral Leasing Program. In January 2017 there were 92 vacancies in key positions related to the permitting process. Since that time this administration has filled nearly half of those positions. The BLM is also modernizing the software used to track and coordinate permitting while seeking to add regional teams that will be able to greatly streamline the permitting process. So far this year the BLM has decreased their processing time for APDs by an average of 46 days.

- **Endangered Species Act** The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is taken into consideration for both on- and offshore energy and infrastructure projects. It has far-reaching negative impacts on energy production and transmission as well as on critical infrastructure projects. ESA abuses have led to increased costs and delays on projects.

- Action: Secretarial Order 3353: Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States Work with the Western Governors Association and other local partners to develop recommendations to improve the application of the

ESA. Launch a review of ESA regulations and policy documents regarding outdated, unnecessary, ineffective, and inconsistently aligned with Executive and Secretarial Orders.

The report also detailed extensive action taken to advance American Energy Dominance at the Department of the Interior, including, but not limited to:

- Secretarial Order 3351: Strengthening the Department of the Interior's Energy Portfolio
- Secretarial Order 3352: National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska
- Secretarial Order 3353: Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States
- Reestablishing the Royalty Policy Committee to ensure the public continues to receive the full value of energy produced on federal lands.
- Review, repeal, and rewriting of the following rules: the BSEE Well Control and BOP Rules, the ONRR Valuation Rule, and the OSMRE Stream Protection Rule.

###

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Final Report:

Review of the Department of the Interior Actions
that Potentially Burden Domestic Energy

October 24, 2017

I. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT	3
II. INTERIOR’S ROLE IN DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCTION, DEVELOPMENT, AND USE	3
III. IMMEDIATE ACTION – SECRETARIAL ORDERS	4
IV. RESULTS OF INTERIOR’S REVIEW OF POTENTIALLY ENERGY-BURDENING ACTIONS	7
A. Bureau of Land Management	7
B. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	17
C. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement	20
D. Office of Natural Resources Revenue	24
E. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement	25
F. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	31
G. Bureau of Reclamation	33
H. Bureau of Indian Affairs	34
I. Integrated Activity Plan for Oil & Gas in the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska	35
J. Mitigation	35
K. Climate Change	41
V. OUTREACH SUMMARY	42
VI. CONCLUSION	42
VII. ATTACHMENTS	43
Secretarial Orders and Secretary’s Memorandum	43

(Page Left Intentionally Blank)

Report of the Secretary of the Interior
Final Report: Review of the Department of the Interior Actions that Potentially Burden
Domestic Energy

I. Purpose of this Report

“Energy is an essential part of American life and a staple of the world economy. Achieving American energy dominance begins with recognizing that we have vast untapped domestic energy reserves. For too long America has been held back by burdensome regulations on our energy industry. The Department is committed to an America-first energy strategy that lowers costs for hardworking Americans and maximizes the use of American resources, freeing us from dependence on foreign oil.”

Secretary Zinke, May 1, 2017, Secretarial Order 3351 Strengthening the Department of the Interior’s Energy Portfolio

This final report describes the Department of the Interior’s (Interior or Department) progress in implementing Executive Order (E.O.) 13783, *Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth*, dated March 28, 2017. EO13783 requires the head of each agency to carry out a review of all agency actions that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources, with particular attention to oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear energy resources. See EO13783, section 2(a). On May 8, 2017, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued guidance to agencies on the contents of a draft report. See OMB Guidance M-17-24 (May 8, 2017). The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) has aggressively pursued a comprehensive review of Interior’s energy activities and this final report details the results of this review.

II. Interior’s Role in Domestic Energy Production, Development, and Use

Interior is the steward and manager of America’s natural resources, including oil, gas, coal, hydropower, and renewable energy resources. Interior manages lands, subsurface rights, and offshore areas that produce approximately 19 percent of the Nation’s energy. Energy development on public lands increases domestic energy production, provides alternatives to overseas energy resources, creates jobs, and enhances the Nation’s energy security. The Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) collects an average of over \$10 billion annual revenue from onshore and offshore energy production, one of the Federal Government’s largest sources of non-tax revenue.

Eight of Interior's nine bureaus have energy programs and responsibilities:

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers onshore energy and subsurface minerals on certain public lands.
- The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) works with states and tribes to oversee environmentally sound coal mining operations;
- The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) oversees offshore oil, gas, and wind development.
- The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is the lead Federal agency charged with improving safety and ensuring environmental protection related to the offshore energy industry, primarily oil and natural gas, on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).
- The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, generating over 40 million megawatt-hours of electricity each year;
- The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) oversees leasing of tribal and Indian land for energy development.
- The Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) collects revenue from energy production and development.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Park Service (NPS), while not directly involved in the production or development of energy as part of their missions, may have Federal or non-Federal oil and gas or mineral inholdings. These agencies also manage lands and trails through which important energy-related infrastructure may pass in order to bring affordable energy to American families throughout our country. These agencies therefore have the ability to reduce potential burdens on domestic energy production, development, or transmission.

III. Immediate Action – Secretarial Orders

When the United States is a leader in developing its energy resources, it is less dependent on other nations, leading to a stronger America. Interior is committed to an America-First energy strategy that fosters domestic energy production in order to keep energy prices low for American families, businesses, and manufacturers. Every drop of oil, Mcf of natural gas or MW of offshore wind energy produced here in the U.S. benefits the American workers employed in those operations and also frees us from dependence on foreign energy resources. Beyond enhancing America's energy security, low cost energy benefits the American consumer and enhances American manufacturing competitiveness, making American businesses more competitive globally. Secretary Zinke recognizes that development of energy resources on public lands increases the Nation's domestic energy supply, provides alternatives to overseas energy resources, generates revenue, creates jobs, and enhances national security. Eliminating harmful regulations and unnecessary policies will require a sustained and focused effort. That said, the Department will strike the appropriate balance in order to make use of our Nation's domestic resource wealth while also ensuring careful attention to safe and environmentally responsible operations both onshore and offshore, and promoting conservation stewardship.

Secretary Zinke has issued seven Secretarial Orders to improve domestic onshore and offshore energy production that further these principles. To ensure energy policies receive the highest

level attention across Interior, the Secretary established the Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy position to coordinate the energy policy of Interior, including, but not limited to, promoting responsible development of energy on public lands managed and administered by Interior, developing strategies to eliminate or minimize regulatory burdens that unnecessarily encumber energy, and promoting efficient and effective processing of energy-related authorizations, permits, regulations, and agreements. *See* Secretarial Order 3351, “Strengthening the Department of the Interior’s Energy Portfolio” (May 1, 2017). Establishing this position that reports directly to the Secretary assures that developing America’s energy resources in a responsible way to create jobs and enhance the energy security of the United States will remain a central priority. The remaining six Secretarial orders are:

- Secretarial Order 3348 Concerning the Federal Coal Moratorium;
- Secretarial Order 3349 American Energy Independence;
- Secretarial Order 3350 America-First Offshore Energy Strategy;
- Secretarial Order 3352 National Petroleum Reserve Alaska;
- Secretarial Order 3353 Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States; and
- Secretarial Order 3354 Supporting and Improving the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Federal Solid Mineral Leasing Program.

These Orders direct Interior bureaus and offices to take immediate and specific actions to identify and alleviate or eliminate burdens on domestic energy development. Within this framework, bureaus have identified actions and, in some cases, already made progress in alleviating or eliminating the energy burdens.

A. Secretary Order 3348 – Concerning the Federal Coal Moratorium

One of Secretary Zinke’s first acts was to sign Secretarial Order 3348, “Concerning the Federal Coal Moratorium” (March 29, 2017), which removed the moratorium on the Federal coal leasing program by revoking a prior Secretarial Order (Secretarial Order 3338, “Discretionary Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Modernize the Federal Coal Program”). Secretarial Order 3348 promotes American energy security, job creation, and proper conservation stewardship. It directs BLM to process coal lease applications and modifications expeditiously and directs Interior bureaus and offices to make appropriate changes to policy and guidance documents to further President Donald Trump’s policy of promoting American energy independence and economic growth. (See further discussion below at IV.x and E.)

In addition to lifting the coal moratorium, Secretary Zinke took other actions to advance American energy independence. In announcing these actions he said, “Today I signed a series of directives to put America on track to achieve the President’s vision for energy independence and bringing jobs back to communities across the country.” These directives foster responsible development of coal, oil, gas, and renewable energy on Federal and tribal lands and initiate review of agency actions directed by EO13783.

B. Secretarial Order 3349 – American Energy Independence

The most overarching Secretarial Order reducing burdens on energy development is Secretarial Order 3349, “American Energy Independence” (March 29, 2017), which directed bureaus to examine specific actions impacting oil and gas development, and any other actions affecting other energy development. It revoked Secretarial Order 3330, “Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior,” and directed bureaus and offices to review all actions taken pursuant to that Order for possible reconsideration, modification, or rescission. It also directed each bureau and office to review actions taken regarding rescinded Executive Orders related to climate change. Further, it directed the review of the following specific actions impacting energy development:

- BLM Hydraulic Fracturing Rule (RIN 1004 AE26) (see discussion below under IV.A.i.);
- BLM Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation Rule (RIN 1004 AE14) (see discussion below under IV.A.ii);
- NPS Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights Rule (RIN 1024 AD78); and
- FWS National Wildlife Refuge System; Management of Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights (RIN 1018 AX36) (see discussion below under IV.F.).

C. Secretarial Order 3350 – America-First Offshore Energy Strategy

This Order enhances opportunities for energy exploration, leasing, conservation stewardship, and development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), thereby providing jobs, energy security, and revenue for the American people by reinitiating the five-year planning process. Among other actions, it directed the review of the following regulatory actions that impact offshore energy development:

- BOEM Notice to Lessees (NTL) No. 2016-N01 entitled, “Notice to Lessees and Operators of Federal Oil and Gas, and Sulfur Leases, and Holders of Pipeline Right-of-Way and Right-of-Use and Easement Grants in the Outer Continental Shelf”;
- BOEM Offshore Air Quality Control, Reporting, and Compliance Rule (RIN 1010-AD82);
- BSEE Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf-Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control (RIN 1014 AA11); and
- BOEM and BSEE Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf Requirements for Exploratory Drilling on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf Rule (RIN 1082 AA00).

D. Secretarial Order 3352 – National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska

This Order provides for clean and safe development of oil and gas resources in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, recognizing that prudent development of these resources is essential to ensuring the Nation’s geopolitical security. (See discussion below at IV.J.)

E. Secretarial Order 3353 – Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States

Sage-grouse protections can affect energy development because these activities often share the same land across the 11 western states and 67 million acres of Federal land that are affected by sage grouse habitat. This Order establishes a Sage-Grouse Review Team that includes representatives from the BLM, FWS, and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to review the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plans and associated policies, giving appropriate weight to the value of energy and other development on public lands within BLM’s overall multiple-use mission and to be consistent with the policy set forth in Secretarial Order 3349, “American Energy Independence.” (See discussion below at IV.A.vii.)

F. Secretarial Order 3354 – Supporting and Improving the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Federal Solid Mineral Leasing Program

This Order intends to ensure that quarterly oil and gas lease sales are consistently held and to identify ways to promote the exploration and development of Federal onshore oil and gas and solid mineral resources, including improving quarterly lease sales, enhancing the Federal onshore solid mineral leasing program, and improving the permitting processes. See discussion below at IV.A.

Details of progress in accordance with the aforementioned Executive and Secretarial Orders are described below, as well as relevant proposed actions that are currently under review. Prior to reaching a final determination regarding any proposed action, Interior may be required to comply with the notice and comment requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act or other laws and regulations, and will weigh the results of such procedures accordingly in its decisionmaking process.

IV. Results of Interior’s Review of Potentially Energy-Burdening Actions

A. Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management administers more land than any other Federal agency, consisting of more than 245 million surface acres and 700 million acres of subsurface mineral development. In response to EO13783 and Secretarial Orders 3348, 3349, and 3354, BLM is revising and reforming its leasing processes, improving the Coal Management Program, and delaying, revising, or rescinding burdensome regulations and policies to improve domestic energy production and support jobs.

Below is a list of specific actions BLM is undertaking to reduce burdens on the production of energy on BLM managed resources.

i. Review of the Hydraulic Fracturing rule

Executive Order 13783 required Interior to review the final rule entitled, “Oil and Gas; Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands,” 80 FR 16128 (Mar. 26, 2015). Secretarial Order 3349 directed BLM to undertake that review. On July 25, 2017, BLM published a proposed rule to rescind the 2015 hydraulic fracturing rule because the compliance costs of the existing 2015 rule are not justified (82 FR 34464). All 32 states with Federal oil and gas leases and some tribes currently have laws or regulations that address hydraulic fracturing operations. Thus, rescinding the rule has the potential to reduce regulatory burdens by enabling oil and gas operations to occur under one set of regulations within each state or tribal lands, rather than two. Rescinding this rule may result in additional interest in oil and gas development on public lands, especially under higher commodity prices.

Interior has identified this proposed rescission as a deregulatory action under EO13771.

ii. Temporarily Suspend or Postpone Certain Requirements and Review to Rescind or Revise the Venting and Flaring Rule

Executive Order 13783 required Interior to review the final rule entitled, “Oil and Gas; Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation,” 81 FR 83008 (Nov. 18, 2016), also known as the “Venting and Flaring” rule. Secretarial Order 3349 ordered BLM to review the rule and report to the Assistant Secretary Land and Minerals Management on whether the rule is fully consistent with the policy expressed in EO13783.

The BLM conducted an initial review of the rule and found that it was inconsistent with the policy stated in EO13783 that “it is in the national interest to promote clean and safe development of our nation’s vast energy resources, while at the same time avoiding regulatory burdens that unnecessarily encumber energy production, constrain economic growth, and prevent job creation.” The BLM recognizes that the 2016 final rule poses a substantial burden on industry, particularly those requirements that are set to become effective on January 17, 2018. The BLM issued a proposed rule that was published in the Federal Register on October 5, 2017, seeking comment on temporarily suspending or delaying certain requirements until January 17, 2019, to reduce the regulatory burden on the energy industry. This will provide industry additional time to plan for and engineer responsive infrastructure modifications that will comply with the regulation.

If finalized, the revised regulation will provide significant additional phase-in time to oil and gas operators.

The BLM intends to work with industry to develop metrics, including key timelines or benchmarks, and the reduction of flaring from Federal and Indian lands over time.

Following up on its initial review, BLM has reviewed the 2016 final rule in accordance with the policies set forth in E. O. 13783. The BLM is currently drafting a proposed rule that would eliminate overlap with the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Clean

Air Act authorities while also clarifying regulatory provisions related to the beneficial use of gas on Federal and Indian lands.

The BLM has identified the delay of effective date rulemaking as a deregulatory action under EO13771.

iii. Revise Oil and Gas; Onshore Orders Nos. 3, 4 and 5

The burdens placed on industry through these 3 new regulations are being reviewed as directed under EO13783. These 3 rulemakings, which were promulgated and issued concurrently, updated and replaced BLM's Onshore Orders for site security, oil measurement, and gas measurement regulations, respectively, that had been in place since 1989. They are codified in the Code of Federal Regulations at 43 CFR parts 3173, 3174, and 3175. External and internal oversight reviews prompted these rulemakings and found that many of BLM's production measurement and accountability policies were outdated and inconsistently applied. The new rules also address some of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) concerns for high risk with regard to Interior's production accountability. These 3 regulations impose new cost burdens on operators as a result of oil and gas facility infrastructure changes. The cost estimates for each individual rule are as follows:

- Order 3, Site Security: \$31.2 million in one-time costs, plus an \$11.7 million increase in annual operating costs;
- Order 4, Oil Measurement: \$3.3 million in one-time costs, plus a \$4.6 million increase in annual operating costs; and
- Order 5, Gas Measurement: \$23.3 million one-time cost, plus \$12.1 million increase in annual operating costs.

The new regulations also provide a process for approving new technology that meets defined performance goals. Some provisions of the rule may have added regulatory burdens that unnecessarily encumber energy production, constrain economic growth, and prevent job creation.

The BLM is currently assessing the rules to determine 1) if additional revisions are needed beyond the already-implemented phase-in period for certain provisions, 2) the ability for industry to introduce new technologies through a defined process, rather than through an exception request, and 3) the built-in waivers or variances. The BLM expects to complete its assessment of possible changes to alleviate burdens that may have added to constraints on energy production, economic growth and job creation by the end of the fourth quarter of FY 2017.

The new regulations have built in necessary waivers or variances. The BLM's establishment of a phase-in period for the new site security and production measurement regulations is an interim measure. The BLM will measure success over the phase-in period in terms of the production measurements, royalties paid, a reduction in under-reporting of production, and greater site security for production facilities.

iv. Revise and Replace Policy, Oil and Gas; IM 2010-117, "Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Land Use Planning and Lease Parcel Reviews"

This policy will be replaced with revised guidance for the purpose of establishing greater efficiencies in the oil and gas leasing process. Policy Instruction Memorandum (IM) 2010-117 established a process for leasing oil and gas resources on Federal lands. The BLM intended the IM to reduce the backlog of unissued leases. However, the IM has resulted in longer time frames in analyzing and responding to protests and appeals, as well as longer lead times for BLM to clear and make available parcels for oil and gas lease sales. It has also resulted in increased workload and staffing needs to conduct additional upfront environmental analysis.

The BLM has undertaken an effort to revise and reform its leasing policy and to streamline the leasing process from beginning (i.e. receipt of an Expression of Interest) to end (competitively offering the nominated acreage in a lease sale). Under existing policies and procedures, the process can take up to 16 months (and sometimes longer) from the time lands are nominated to the time a lease sale occurs. The BLM is examining ways to significantly reduce this time by as much as 8-10 months. The BLM plans to complete revisions to the leasing process in the first quarter of FY 2018.

A shorter period from nomination to sale will reduce the number of nominated acres awaiting competitive sale at any given time and will increase industry certainty regarding the acreage it holds. As a result, industry will be able to plan for and execute exploration and production strategies earlier, and respond more effectively to changing market conditions.

Reducing the average time from acreage nomination to lease sale will be BLM's measure of success. The BLM does not control what acreage industry nominates because market conditions can fluctuate dramatically; therefore, total nominated acreage awaiting sale is not likely to be a measure of success.

Until the policy revisions are completed, BLM is setting quarterly lease sale acreage targets to address the acreage currently nominated. The BLM is also identifying ways to augment staff support for potential sales in those offices with the greatest numbers of acres nominated.

v. Rescind Policy, Oil and Gas; IM 2013-101, "Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Master Leasing Plans (MLPs)"

This policy announced the incorporation of Master Leasing Plans (MLPs) in the oil and gas leasing process, further explained in Chapter V of the BLM Handbook H-1624-1, entitled "Planning for Fluid Mineral Resources." The IM establishes a process for integrating an MLP into the land use planning process. The BLM has extended this IM several times while the BLM completes the public scoping and analysis for MLPs. An unintended consequence of this policy has been that many areas open to oil and gas leasing have been deferred from leasing while they await the completion of the MLP process.

The BLM has undertaken an effort to revise the leasing reform and MLP policy and to re-establish the BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs) as the source of lands available for fluid minerals leasing. The BLM is currently evaluating existing MLP efforts with the goal of ending this approach. The BLM expects to rescind this IM and complete the

revision of the above BLM Handbook, as well as any other relevant BLM handbooks, in the first quarter of FY 2018.

Because this change will re-establish the RMP as the source of land allocation decisions for fluid minerals, it will result in more streamlined National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and a shorter timeframe for acreage nominations to make it to a competitive lease sale. Since extra time and NEPA analysis adds to uncertainty for industry and use of taxpayer dollars by the Department, removing these process-related steps has the effect of decreasing uncertainty.

The primary measure of success in removing regulatory burden from the rescission of the MLP policy will be in the elimination of related nominated acreage sale deferral pending completion of MLP NEPA. While there will continue to be acreage sale deferrals for various reasons, completion of MLP NEPA will no longer be one of them. The time frames will be shorter.

vi. *Revise Policy, Oil and Gas; IM 2013-177, “National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance for Oil and Gas Lease Reinstatement Petitions”*

This IM directs all BLM oil and gas leasing Field Offices to: 1) ensure RMP conformance; 2) evaluate the adequacy of existing NEPA analysis and documentation; and 3) complete any necessary new or supplemental NEPA analysis and documentation before approving a Class I or Class II oil and gas lease reinstatement petition. This IM has resulted in additional analysis and review time that often involves another surface management agency and, in some instances, has led to adding new lease stipulations prior to lease reinstatement.

Lease reinstatements were previously considered a ministerial matter, entailing a commensurate level of review and process to complete. However, IM 2013-177 changed that in significant ways, resulting in additional NEPA review and significantly greater timeframes for completing the reinstatement. Rescinding or modifying this policy will greatly reduce decisionmaking timeframes on lease reinstatement requests. The BLM expects to complete review of this policy in the first quarter of FY 2018 and promptly finalize by the second quarter.

The BLM expects that changes to this policy will refocus the emphasis back to existing NEPA analysis and information, which will significantly shorten the time it takes to consider and process a lease reinstatement request. The policy changes will provide greater certainty and reduced expense for energy development companies and result in production occurring sooner.

The BLM will measure the reduction in burden in terms of the average time it takes to consider a complete lease reinstatement request.

Similar to MLPs, in the interim, BLM must identify and evaluate the status of each current lease reinstatement request in order to determine whether and how to expedite review and processing. There are no other interim measures, waivers or variances that are relevant to the process.

vii. *Revise Policy, Oil and Gas: IM 2016-140, “Implementation of Greater Sage-grouse Resource Management Plan Revisions or Amendments Oil & Gas Leasing and Development Sequential Prioritization”*

Policy IM 2016-140 is being reviewed for the purpose of enhancing consistency and certainty for oil and gas development in areas of sage-grouse habitat as directed by EO13783. This IM provides guidance on prioritizing implementation decisions for BLM oil and gas leasing and development, to be consistent with Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments for the Rocky Mountain and Great Basin Greater Sage-grouse Regions and nine Approved Resource Management Plans in the Rocky Mountain Greater Sage-grouse Region (collectively referred to as the Greater Sage-grouse Plans). The IM applies to activities in the areas covered by both the Rocky Mountain and Great Basin Regions Records of Decision, issued by BLM in September 2015, and also contains reporting requirements for communication between BLM State Offices and the Washington Office (WO). The IM may have added administrative burdens since it requires additional analysis and staff time to screen parcels and weigh potential impacts to the Greater Sage-grouse before the parcels are offered for leasing. It also requires additional analysis and staff time to process drilling permit approvals near Greater Sage-grouse areas.

The BLM’s effort to avoid listing of the sage-grouse as an endangered species has affected many programs and a large area geographically. With new technologies and capabilities, such as long-reach horizontal boreholes in the oil and gas industry, the impacts are not as significant as once perceived. Likewise, the administrative burden is better understood and is likely less than once thought. Efforts are underway to better understand these conditions and define ways in which energy production and sage-grouse protection may continue to co-exist. Greater consistency and predictability will provide greater stability for industry. The BLM is currently assessing the policy to determine what revisions are needed and expects to complete this review in the fourth quarter of FY 2017.

When the BLM completes this effort, industry will have greater certainty in leasing, exploration and production activities due to availability of acreage for oil and gas development and a defined process and timeframe for consideration of Greater Sage-grouse impacts.

The BLM will measure success by assessing changes in industry’s interest in nominating acreage for competitive sale and developing existing leases in areas affected by the Greater Sage-grouse amendments to RMPs. As industry increases its understanding and gains confidence in the consistency and predictability of BLM actions relative to Greater Sage-grouse, then acreage nominations, permit requests, and development should stabilize and be tied to market forces rather than tied to BLM Greater Sage-grouse decisions.

The BLM has been processing acreage nominations in Greater Sage-grouse areas and making them available for competitive sale. In addition, existing leases are being developed. This is evidence, in the interim, that both BLM and industry are developing innovative ways to adapt energy development in light of Greater Sage-grouse protections.

viii. Review of General Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Policies and Plans

In September 2015, the BLM incorporated Greater Sage-grouse (GRSG) conservation measures into its land use plans within the range of the GRSG. In September 2016, the BLM issued a number of IMs to help guide the implementation of the GRSG plans. These GRSG plans and policies will affect where, when, and how energy and minerals are developed within the range of the GRSG.

Pursuant to Secretarial Order 3353, “Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States,” an Interior Sage-Grouse Review Team (Review Team) is working with the State-Federal Sage-Grouse Task Force to identify opportunities for greater collaboration, to better align Federal and State plans for the GRSG, to support local economies and jobs, and consider new and innovative ways to conserve GRSG in the long-term. Pursuant to the Secretarial Order, in August 2017, the Review Team submitted a report to the Secretary summarizing their review and providing recommendations regarding next steps.

The Review Team’s report identified a number of potential actions to enhance the coordination and integration of state and Federal GRSG conservation efforts.

Success will be measured and evaluated in terms of improved working relationships among local, state, tribal, and Federal units of Government and in terms of improved partner and stakeholder understanding of effective GRSG conservation measures and of the science underlying them.

The BLM anticipates that some of the actions outlined in the Review Team’s report to the Secretary could be implemented in the near future through changes in policy (through issuance of IMs, for example), technical assistance, or training. Other actions may require amending the land use plans. On October 11, 2017, the Department of the Interior, through BLM, initiated a public scoping process for RMP amendment(s) with associated NEPA documents. The comments may be submitted until November 27, 2017. Depending on the scope and significance, such amendments could take upwards of 9 months to 3 years to complete.

ix. Improve Land Use Planning and NEPA Act Policies and Procedures:

The BLM’s land use planning regulations and policies are outlined in 43 CFR subparts 1601 and 1610, Resource Management Planning; BLM Manual Section 1601; and BLM Handbook 1601-1. The BLM’s policies for complying with NEPA are outlined in BLM Handbook 1790-1 and the Interior NEPA implementing regulations are at 43 CFR Part 46. Taken together, these regulations, manuals, and handbooks establish the policies and procedures BLM follows when conducting land use planning and NEPA compliance, including specific actions related to energy and mineral development.

Pursuant to the Secretarial Memorandum of March 27, 2017, entitled “Improving the Bureau of Land Management’s Planning and National Environmental Policy Act Processes,” the BLM is identifying potential actions it could take to streamline its planning and NEPA review procedures. As part of this identification process, BLM is working with state and local elected officials and groups, including the Western

Governors' Association and the National Association of Counties, to engage and gather input. The BLM also has invited tribes and the public to provide input on how the Agency can make its planning and NEPA review procedures timelier, less costly, and more responsive to local needs. Pursuant to the Secretarial Memorandum, in September 2017, BLM will submit a report to the Secretary outlining recommended actions.

Once implemented, the actions recommended in the report should reduce the time and/or cost of complying with BLM's statutory direction to conduct land use planning under section 202 of FLPMA and complying with NEPA when evaluating proposed actions. These recommendations also should lead to more-standardized analyses in BLM's NEPA reviews at the land use plan and project level.

The reduction in burden will be measured and evaluated in terms of processing times and/or costs of authorizing energy development.

Some of the actions outlined in BLM's report to the Secretary will be actions that BLM will be able to implement in the near future, such as improvements to business processes, or updates to internal manuals or handbooks. Other actions would require changes in statute or regulation (such as new Categorical Exclusions), may depend on other agencies to act, or may require front-end investments in data or information technology.

x. Review Coal-Related Policies and Actions

On March 29, 2017, Secretary Zinke issued Secretarial Order 3348 to lift the Federal coal moratorium imposed by previous Secretarial Order 3338. This Order conformed to the directive in E.O.13783 requiring the Secretary to lift the moratorium and commence Federal coal leasing activities consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

The BLM is working to process coal lease applications and modifications "expeditiously" in accordance with regulations and guidance that existed before Secretarial Order 3338. The BLM also ceased activities associated with preparation of the Federal Coal Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

Consistent with EO13783 and Secretarial Order 3348, the BLM is reviewing its policies, with the intent to update or rescind them.

xi. Other Recommendations for Alleviating or Eliminating Actions That Could Directly or Indirectly Burden Energy Exploration or Production

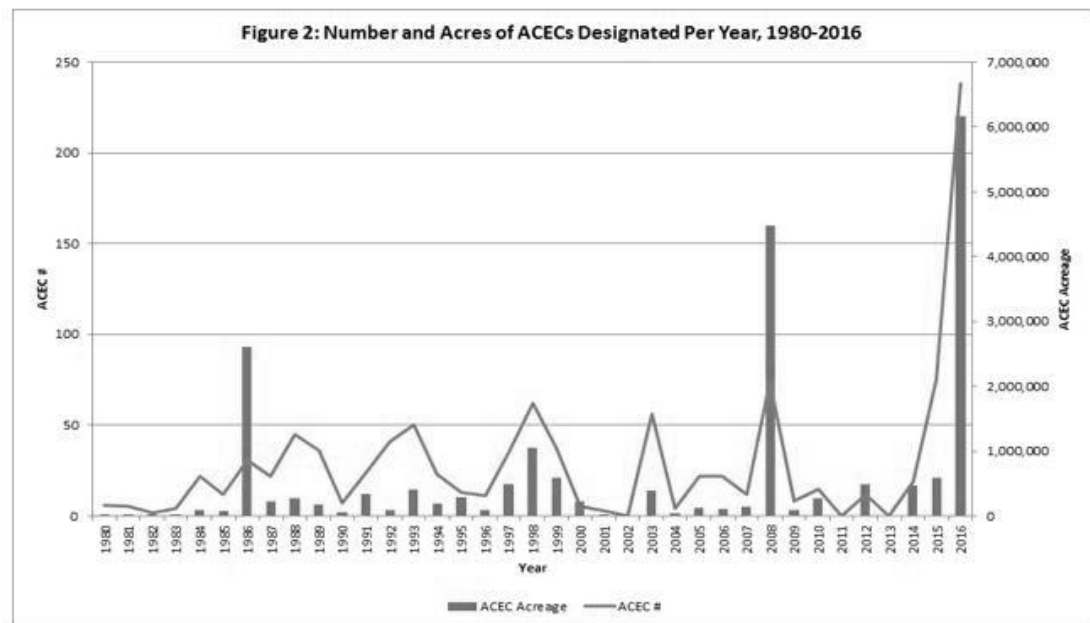
- **Review Land Use Designations**

The BLM land use planning process ensures that public lands are managed in accordance with the intent of Congress as stated in FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The BLM's Resource Management Plans (RMPs) are the basis for every on-the-ground action the BLM undertakes, which includes determinations on lands suitable for future energy leasing and permitting opportunities. The BLM uses land use designations

as a part of the land use planning process to guide the management of certain geographic areas towards particular objectives, values or uses.

While some land use designations are made by Congressional, Secretarial, or Presidential action (and therefore require specific land management principles), the BLM has used broad discretion in establishing other formal and less-formal land use designations to set additional management criteria for public lands. In some cases, these criteria may conflict with other multiple use objectives for the land such as energy development and therefore have the potential to burden domestic energy development on public lands by reducing access to leasable acreage.

At the time of this report, BLM identified over 60 different land use designations used in RMPs, many of which may lead to additional restrictions on the use of the land. One example is the Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation, which is authorized by Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). The Eastern Interior RMP, finalized on January 3, 2017, designated over 2 million acres of ACEC much of which was recommended for closure to mineral entry and mineral leasing in order to best meet the objectives of the ACEC. The chart included below provides a visual reference for the increased use of this land use designation especially in more recent RMPs.



Note: Figure 2 only shows the number and acres of ACECs designated per year (by fiscal year) and does not present the number and acres that may have been removed per an RMP amendment or revision. Data includes ACECs that may also be Research Natural Areas. Not included in these data are ACECs that have been designated so far in FY 2017, including 2,062,997 acres of ACECs designated in the AK - Eastern Interior Fortymile and Draanjik RMPs.

The BLM will further evaluate the need for these numerous land use designations as a part of the ongoing review of their planning process. The BLM will also

work with state, local, and tribal partners to incorporate efficiencies and update policies on the use of land use designations that may burden or hinder energy development on Federal lands.

- **Review Use of Leasing Stipulations and Conditions of Approval**

Aside from providing for leasing with standard lease terms in the land use planning process, BLM may apply lease stipulations to a specific unit at the planning stage. Stipulations set additional criteria to which an operator must adhere once the acreage is leased. Stipulations include no surface occupancy restrictions (NSO), which close acreage to surface-disturbing activities, timing restrictions (TL), which close acreage to surface-disturbing activities during certain timeframes, and other controlled surface use (CSU) restrictions, which include more specific restrictions such as sound and visual impacts or construction requirements. In some cases, these stipulations may have an impact on the attractiveness of the lease sale parcel in the bidding process.

The BLM may also assign Conditions of Approval (COA) at the permitting stage when an operator first applies for an Application for Permit to Drill (APD). Once an APD is filed, the BLM will send an onsite inspection team to determine the best location for the well, road, and facilities; identify site-specific concerns and potential environmental impacts associated with the proposal and potential options for mitigating these impacts, including COAs. Site-specific concerns include, but are not limited to: well spacing; riparian and wetland areas; visual resource management such as painting infrastructure specific colors; and cultural and wildlife survey needs to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Lease stipulations and additional conditions of approval added at the permitting stage burden energy development on public lands by adding additional development costs; increasing the complexity of the drilling operations; and extending project timeframes. The 2008 Energy Policy and Conservation Act Phase III study found that of the 128 Federal land use plans surveyed for inventory, approximately 3,125 individual stipulations and 157 types of COAs were being used.¹ The BLM does not have updated figures at the time of this report.

- **Review Protest Regulations and Policy**

Current BLM regulations allow any party to file a protest on a BLM decision, such as a protest on a land use plan or on a subsequent decision to include a parcel in an oil and gas lease sale. This process provides multiple opportunities to protest every step of the process of offering public lands for oil and gas leasing. To date, many state offices, such as CO, MT, NM, UT, and WY are receiving protests on

¹ https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/EPCA_III_Inventory_Onshore_Federal_Oil_Gas.pdf; p. 42, 109.

every oil and gas parcel offered through the Notice of Competitive Lease Sale process.

In the past, protests were parcel-specific on issues unique to the parcel in question. In recent years, the reasons for protesting every parcel in the sale are broad-based and non-parcel specific, such as general concerns on climate change or hydraulic fracturing. In FY 2016, 72 percent of parcels offered for lease were protested. By comparison, in FY 2012, only 17 percent of parcels received protests. The number of parcels offered on the original sale notice decreased from 2,247 in FY 2012 to 820 in FY 2016.

If a protest is still pending on the day of sale, the parcel can still be offered during the sale but the protest must be resolved prior to the lease being issued and the protest may diminish interest in bidding. This in turn can delay payment of the State's share of the bonus bids which occurred most recently in the State of New Mexico. In September 2016, BLM hosted a record-setting lease sale generating \$145 million in revenue, of which \$80 million was owed to the state Mineral Leasing Act revenue sharing provision. As a result of the number of protested parcels and the length of time it took to resolve all protests, the payment to the State of New Mexico was delayed approximately 250 days.

This uptick in the protest process and the inability to reach conclusive resolutions in a timely manner is a burden on oil and natural gas development on public lands. A regulatory change may be necessary to limit redundant protests that hinder orderly development. Alternatively, the BLM is investigating the value in creating regional leasing teams that could build sufficient capacity to offer parcels during the BLM's quarterly lease sales.

xii. Revise Energy-Related Collections of Information under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The BLM anticipates revising energy-related collections of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act (e.g., Approval of Operations (1004-0213) and Application for Permit to Drill (1014-0025) to reduce administrative burden on energy development and use through simplification of forms and associated instructions/guidance and ceasing collection of information that is unnecessary or lacks practical utility.

B. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

The BOEM is responsible for managing development of the Nation's offshore energy and mineral resources through offshore leasing, resource evaluation, review, and administration of oil and gas exploration and development plans, renewable energy development, economic analysis, NEPA analysis, and environmental studies. The BOEM promotes energy security, environmental protection and economic development through responsible, science-informed management of offshore conventional and renewable energy and mineral resources. The BOEM carries out these responsibilities while ensuring the receipt of fair market value for U.S.

taxpayers on OCS leases, and balancing the energy demands and mineral needs of the Nation with the protection of the human, marine, and coastal environments.

Since the publication of EO13771 on January 30, 2017, BOEM has been reviewing all aspects of its programs to identify regulations and guidance documents that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources beyond the degree necessary to protect the public interest or otherwise comply with the law.

Below are specific actions BOEM is undertaking to reduce burdens on the production of energy offshore in the America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, as delineated in EO13795 and S.O. 3350:

i. Air Quality Rule

The BOEM has been re-examining the provisions of the air quality proposed rule published on April 5, 2016 (81 FR 19718), which would provide the first substantive updates to the regulation since 1980. The proposed rule addressed air quality measurement, evaluation, and control with respect to oil, gas, and sulphur operations on the OCS of the United States in the central and western Gulf of Mexico and the area offshore the North Slope Borough in Alaska. Interior is currently reviewing recommendations on how to proceed, including promulgating final rules for certain necessary provisions and issuing a new proposed rule that may withdraw certain provisions and seek additional input on others.

ii. Financial Assurance for Decommissioning

Notice to Lessees No. 2016-N01, for which implementation has been suspended, would make substantial changes to BOEM's requirements for companies to provide financial assurance to meet decommissioning obligations. The BOEM has been undertaking a thorough review of the NTL, including gathering stakeholder input.

iii. *Arctic Rule*

On July 15, 2016, BOEM and the BSEE promulgated a final rule, “Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf Requirements for Exploratory Drilling on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf” (81 FR 46478). Interior is reviewing the requirements for exploratory drilling conducted from mobile drilling units within the Arctic OCS (Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea Planning Areas). Interior is considering full rescission or revision of this rule, including associated information collection requirements. Review of this rule is expected to allow greater utilization of the Arctic drilling season.

iv. *Oil and Gas Leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf*

Secretary Zinke directed development of a new 5-year OCS oil and gas leasing program to spur safe and responsible energy development offshore. On July 3, 2017, BOEM published a request for information and comments on the preparation of a new 5-year National OCS Leasing Program for 2019-2024 (82 FR 30886). Upon its completion, the new program will replace the 2017-2022 program.

Secretarial Order 3350 directly implements EO13795, and also advances Interior’s implementation of EO13783 by providing for the reevaluation of actions that impact exploration, leasing, and development of our OCS energy resources. This Secretarial Order enhances opportunities for energy exploration, leasing, and development on the OCS by establishing regulatory certainty for OCS activities. In accordance with this Secretarial Order, Interior is reviewing potential regulatory changes to reduce burden on offshore energy production, development, and use.

In addition, on July 13, Secretary Zinke offered 75.9 million acres offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida for oil and gas exploration and development. The region-wide lease sale conducted on August 16, 2017, was the first offshore sale under the OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022. Under this program, 10 region-wide lease sales are scheduled for the Gulf, where resource potential and industry interest are high, and oil and gas infrastructure is well established. Two Gulf lease sales will be held each year and include all available blocks in the combined Western, Central, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas.

v. *Seismic Permitting*

Currently BOEM is one of two Federal agencies required to take separate regulatory actions in order to permit geological and geophysical surveying on the OCS. These seismic surveys, which are conducted by applicants, enable BOEM to make informed business decisions regarding oil and gas reserves, engineering decisions regarding the construction of renewable energy projects, and informed estimates regarding the composition and volume of marine mineral resources. This information is also used to ensure the proper use and conservation of OCS energy resources and the receipt of fair market value for the leasing of public lands.

The ongoing delay in reaching decisions on Federal authorization of seismic surveys is a burden that hinders domestic energy development by preventing industry from being able to better determine the size and location of potential energy resources below the seafloor. The BOEM experts believe that these surveys can be authorized with appropriate mitigation measures consistent with the protection required by applicable Federal laws, primarily the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA). While BOEM is responsible for ultimately issuing a permit to allow these activities to move forward, no seismic surveying can be done without MMPA authorization by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). For this reason, the issuance of certain seismic permits by BOEM has been held up in a years-long process awaiting NMFS authorization. BOEM and NMFS are currently working on ways to streamline review, as directed in EO 13795, Sec. 3(c).

The Department believes that some improvements can be made through simple program initiatives, such as NMFS assigning dedicated staff to the permits or allowing BOEM to determine MMPA compliance for the purposes of BOEM-related activities in accordance with EO 13807. Finding a genuinely effective solution may warrant statutory changes as well as reorganizing departmental responsibilities within the Executive Branch in order to streamline opportunities to increase efficiency.

vi. *Revise Energy-Related Collections of Information under the Paperwork Reduction Act*

The BOEM is reviewing four energy-related information collections, two of which are related to the Arctic Rule, and two of which collect information that is no longer needed.

C. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

The BSEE ensures the safe and responsible exploration, development, and production of America's offshore energy resources through regulatory oversight and enforcement. The BSEE is focused on fostering secure and reliable energy production for America's future through a program of efficient permitting, appropriate regulations, compliance monitoring and enforcement, technical assessments, inspections, and incident investigations. As a steward of the Nation's OCS oil, gas, and mineral resources, the Bureau protects Federal royalty interests by ensuring that oil and gas production methods maximize recovery from underground reservoirs.

The BSEE continues the efforts begun earlier this calendar year to review and seek stakeholder input on opportunities to reduce burden on the regulated community while maintaining necessary safety and environmental protections. Specifically, the BSEE is focusing its review on 2 final rules, published in 2016, regarding safety and environmental protection for oil and gas exploration, development and production activities on the OCS. The first is the Well Control and Blowout Preventer (BOP) Rule (81 FR 25888); the second is the Arctic Exploratory Drilling Rule (the Arctic Rule) (81 FR 46478), which was issued jointly by BSEE and BOEM. Both rules (as described below) revised older regulations and added some new requirements that potentially burden development of domestic offshore oil and gas production. The BSEE continues to identify specific issues in both final rules that, if revised or eliminated through a future rulemaking process, could alleviate those burdens without reducing the safety or

environmental protections of the rules. The BSEE is beginning the process of drafting timelines and developing stakeholder engagement strategies for potential revision to both sets of regulations. These rules fit into the category of “Other Actions that Potentially Burden Development or Use of Energy.” The BSEE has also identified policies that should be re-examined. Those are:

- review decommissioning infrastructure removal requirements and timelines for infrastructure;
- clarify Civil Penalties Guidance; and
- review current policies associated with taking enforcement actions against contractors.

The BSEE already completed publication of a final rule revising requirements of 30 CFR 250.180 to extend the period of time before a lease expires due to cessation of operations from 180 days to 1 year, thus allowing operators greater flexibility to plan exploration activities.² The BSEE also improved its civil penalty program through the creation of a Civil Penalty Enforcement Specialist in each district in the Gulf of Mexico Region to serve as a liaison with District and Headquarters throughout a civil penalty case, providing clarity and consistency among civil penalty cases.

The BSEE is also reviewing the Production Safety Systems Rule (30 CFR part 250, subpart H), based on Department guidance received between April and May of 2017. If areas for revision are identified, the BSEE would tier it behind the Well Control Rule (WCR) and the Arctic Rule in terms of potential burden reduction.

Below are the specific details of BSEE’s review to identify additional regulations and policies that potentially burden development or use of energy.

i. Revise Well Control and BOP Rule (WCR)

The WCR was issued on April 29, 2016, and consolidated new equipment and operational requirements for well control, including drilling, completion, workover, and decommissioning operations. The rule also incorporated or updated references to numerous industry standards and established new requirements reflecting advances in areas such as well design and control, casing and cementing, real-time monitoring (RTM), subsea containment of leaks and discharges, and blowout preventer requirements. In addition, the final rule adopted several reforms recommended by several bodies that investigated the *Deepwater Horizon* incident.

The BSEE is considering several revisions to its regulations. Among those considerations is a rulemaking to revise the following aspects of the new well control regulations, including but not limited to:

² See, “Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf – Lease Continuation Through Operations,” 82 FR 26741 (June 9, 2017).

- revising the requirements for sufficient accumulator capacity and remotely-operated vehicle (ROV) capability to both open and close rams on subsea BOPs (i.e., to only require capability to close the rams);
- revising the requirement to shut in platforms when a lift boat approaches within 500 feet;
- extending the 14-day interval between pressure testing of BOP systems to 21 days in some situations;
- clarifying that the requirement for weekly testing of two BOP control stations means testing one station (not both stations) per week;
- simplifying testing pressures for verification of ram closure; and
- revising or deleting the requirement to submit test results to BSEE District Managers within 72 hours.

These changes are expected to strike the appropriate balance in order to maintain important safety and environmental protections while also ensuring development may continue.

The BSEE initiated review of potential regulatory changes to this rule in July 2017. The interim step before issuing a proposed rule to revise existing regulations is to seek input on potential areas of reform from the stakeholders. The BSEE is in the process of determining the most effective way to engage stakeholders to provide meaningful and constructive input on regulatory reform efforts related to well control. As a result of stakeholder outreach, the above list of potential reforms may be increased.

ii. Revise Arctic Rule

The Arctic Rule was published on July 15, 2016 (81 FR 46478), and revised existing regulations and added new prescriptive and performance-based requirements for exploratory drilling conducted from mobile drilling units and related operations on the OCS within the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea Planning Areas (Arctic OCS). After conducting its review to eliminate burdens and increase economic opportunities, BSEE is considering a several revisions to the rule, including but not limited to:

- modifying requirement to capture water-based muds and cuttings;
- eliminating the requirement for a cap and flow system and containment dome that are capable of being located at the well site within 7 days of loss of well control;
- eliminating the reference to the expected return of sea ice from the requirement to be able to drill a relief well within 45 days of loss of well control; and
- eliminating the reference to equivalent technology from the mudline cellar requirement.

The BOEM has also identified an opportunity to reduce burden on operators. A joint rulemaking would likely be undertaken again.

Among the potential benefits of the items listed above is the possibility of allowing greater flexibility for operators to continue drilling into hydrocarbon zones later into the

Arctic drilling season. Current leasing strategies in the Arctic constrain future exploratory activities to which this rule would apply.

Success will result in a reduction in burdens associated with exploration of the Nation's Arctic oil and gas reserves while also providing appropriate safety and environmental protection tailored to this unique environment.

Prior to proposing a rulemaking to make the changes above, BSEE and BOEM plan to undertake stakeholder engagement activities. As a result of stakeholder engagement, the list of potential areas for proposed reform may change or grow. This process will enhance our ability to engage the public and stakeholders, as well as ensure our ability to engage in a robust consultation with tribes and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act corporations. Stakeholder engagement will have the added benefit of allowing BSEE and BOEM to receive input on how the agencies calculate the primary lease term in order to provide a more tailored approach to the limited drilling windows in the Arctic.

iii. Decommissioning Infrastructure Removal Requirements

The BSEE will re-examine the NTL 2010-G05, "Decommissioning Guidance for Wells and Platforms," to determine whether additional flexibility should be provided to better account for facility and well numbers and size, as well as timing consideration that can arise in the case of financial distress or bankruptcy of companies. Any changes to the NTL will not have an impact on companies' underlying decommissioning obligations, but could provide more flexibility to allow for cash-flow management and ultimately increase assurance that decommissioning obligations can be fulfilled without government expense.

iv. Lease Continuation Through Operations

This action was completed on June 9, 2017, when final rule 1014 AA35, "Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf-Lease Continuation Through Operations," was published in the Federal Register (82 FR 26741). Section 121 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 mandated that BSEE revise the requirements of 30 CFR 250.180 relating to maintaining a lease beyond its primary term through continuous operations. The final rule changed all of the references to the period of time before which a lease expires due to cessation of operations from "180 days" and "180th day" to a "year" and from "180-day period" to a "1-year period." The rule has become effective and is allowing operators greater flexibility to plan exploration activities.

v. Contractor Incidents of Noncompliance

The BSEE currently has a policy that calls for issuing notices of noncompliance (INCs) to contractors as well as operators in certain instances. The BSEE will examine whether this policy is achieving the desired deterrence value or whether an alternative compliance incentive should be considered and the policy revised. There are currently several

ongoing court actions that could result in adjustments to this policy. The BSEE will consider all of this information while examining the policy.

vi. Civil Penalties

Since 2013, the BSEE civil penalty program has continued to improve its processes and programs. For example, in 2016, each of the Districts in the Gulf of Mexico Region (GOMR) created the position of Civil Penalty Enforcement Specialist to assist with the review of all INCs to determine which INCs are appropriate for civil penalty assessment, and to act as a liaison with the District and Headquarters (HQ) throughout a civil penalty case. This effort has greatly assisted in providing clarity and consistency to the development of civil penalty cases.

vii. Energy-Related Information Collections under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The BSEE has approximately 25 information collections associated with our regulations and guidance that must be renewed every 3 years on a rolling basis. The renewal process involves an analysis of whether each information collection continues to be necessary and if whether it requires modification. Through this process, BSEE continuously reviews our forms and the information we collect and reduces the collection burden wherever appropriate. Additionally, there may be further burden reduction associated with potential revisions to the Well Control and Arctic rules once final determinations have been made with respect to specific action on those regulations.

D. Office of Natural Resources Revenue

The ONRR is responsible for ensuring revenue from Federal and Indian mineral leases is effectively, efficiently, and accurately collected, accounted for, analyzed, audited, and disbursed to recipients. The ONRR collects an average of over \$10 billion annual revenue from onshore and offshore energy production, one of the Federal government's largest sources of non-tax revenue.

i. Royalty Policy Committee

In an effort to ensure the public continues to receive the full value of natural resources produced on Federal lands, Secretary Zinke signed a charter establishing a Royalty Policy Committee (RPC) to provide regular advice to the Secretary on the fair market value of and collection of revenues from Federal and Indian mineral and energy leases, including renewable energy sources. The RPC may also advise on the potential impacts of proposed policies and regulations related to revenue collection from such development, including whether a need exists for regulatory reform. The group consists of 28 local, tribal, state, and other stakeholders and will serve in an advisory nature. The Secretary's Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy chairs the RPC. The first meeting will be held on October 4, 2017.

ii. 2017 Valuation Rule

On April 4, 2017, ONRR published a proposed rule that would rescind the 2017 Valuation Rule. The ONRR, after considering public feedback, recognized that implementing the 2017 Valuation Rule would be contrary to the rule's stated purpose of offering greater simplicity, certainty, clarity, and consistency in product valuation. The ONRR determined that the 2017 Valuation Rule unnecessarily burdened the development of Federal and Indian coal beyond what was necessary to protect the public interest or otherwise comply with the law. ONRR therefore repealed the rule in its entirety and reinstated the valuation regulations in effect prior that rule. (82 FR 36934, August 7, 2017).

E. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

The OSMRE ensures, through a nationwide regulatory program, that coal mining is conducted in a manner that protects communities and the environment during mining, restores the land to beneficial use following mining, and mitigates the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned mine lands. The OSMRE's statutory role is to promote and assist its partner states and tribes in establishing a stable regulatory environment for coal mining. The proposed level of regulatory grant funding provides for the efficient and effective operations of programs at a level consistent with the anticipated obligations of State and tribal regulatory programs to account for the Nation's demand for coal mine permitting and production.

On February 16, 2017, President Trump signed a resolution under the Congressional Review Act to annul the Stream Protection Rule (SPR) (81 FR 93066, December 20, 2016). This rule imposed substantial burdens on the coal industry and threatened jobs in communities dependent on coal. As described below, OSMRE has drafted a Federal Register document to conform the Code of Federal Regulations to the legislation and return the regulations to their previous status and anticipates publication on or about September 30, 2017. In the interim, OSMRE has ensured that the SPR is not being implemented in any way and that regulation is occurring under the pre-existing regulatory system.

The OSMRE is reviewing additional actions to reduce burdens on coal development, including, for example, reviewing the state program amendment process to reduce the time it takes to formally amend an approved Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) regulatory program.

In compiling the following list of actions for review, OSMRE considered direct and indirect impacts to the coal industry, as well as impacts to the states with primary responsibility for regulating coal mining activities, pursuant to the SMCRA.

Recommendations for Alleviating or Eliminating Burdensome Actions

i. Disapproval of the Stream Protection Rule

The SPR was published on December 20, 2016, and became effective on January 19, 2017. In accordance with the Congressional Review Act, Congress passed, and the President signed, a resolution of disapproval of the SPR on February 16, 2017, as Public

Law 115-5. No provisions of the SPR have been enforced since passage of the resolution. In addition, OSMRE will formally document the CRA nullification of the SPR by publishing in the Federal Register a document that replaces the SPR text with the regulations that were in place prior to January 19, 2017. This will result in the removal of any amendments, deletions, or other modifications associated with the nullified rule, and the reversion to the text of all regulations in effect immediately prior to the effective date of the SPR.

The OSMRE estimates the elimination of this rule will save industry approximately \$82 million annually, and will reduce the amount of time states and OSMRE are expending in the processing of permit applications and monitoring performance during the life of the operation.

Interior has identified the CRA nullification and subsequent action by OSMRE to conform the CFR to the Congressional action as a deregulatory action under EO 13771.

- ii. *Work with Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) to Revisit and Revise Ten-Day Notices and Independent Inspections Directives INE-24, INE-35, REG-8*

Under revisions to OSMRE Directive REG-8, which establishes policies, procedures and responsibilities for conducting oversight of state and tribal regulatory programs, OSMRE conducts 10 percent of all routine oversight inspections with 24 hours' notice to the state regulatory authority. If the state inspector is unavailable to accompany the OSMRE inspector, OSMRE will conduct the inspection alone. These and other oversight inspections sometimes result in the issuance of Ten-Day Notices (TDNs) to the state regulatory authority under Inspection and Enforcement (INE)-35. In addition, INE-24, issued on May 26, 1987, requires OSMRE to issue a TDN to state regulatory authorities upon receipt of a citizen's complaint.

Between 2011 and 2016, 882 TDNs were issued to state regulatory programs. On an annual basis, the majority (39 or 74 percent) of those resulted from citizen's complaints. In addition, an evaluation of data during 2013 found that the number of TDNs issued when the state inspector does not participate was determined to be 6.4 percent of the total oversight inspections, versus 1.5 percent when the state inspector accompanied the OSMRE inspector. State regulatory authorities, particularly in the Appalachian Region, have expressed concern that the number of hours required to prepare TDN responses can be significant.

In an effort to address these concerns, a joint OSMRE and State/Tribal Work Group assessed various topics, including the use of TDNs and independent inspections. In a report issued on July 30, 2014, the Work Group made six specific recommendations for the TDN process and four recommendations regarding the independent inspection process. Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) member states have requested OSMRE revisit these recommendations, and others, in an effort to implement the recommendations. In addition, OSMRE will revisit and revise, as needed, the specific

policy directives governing the use of TDNs and independent inspections in cooperation with the IMCC to reduce the amount of time states and OSMRE are expending to process TDNs.

The review will commence this calendar year, following specific timelines and benchmarks to be established jointly with IMCC.

iii. Work with IMCC to Revise or Rescind OSMRE Memorandum and Directive INE-35 TDNs and Permit Defects

On November 15, 2010, the OSMRE Director issued a memorandum directing OSMRE staff to apply the TDN process and Federal enforcement to permitting issues under approved regulatory programs. In support of this memorandum, on January 31, 2011, the Director reissued Directive INE-35, regarding policy and procedures for the issuance of TDNs. This directive requires the issuance of a TDN whenever a permit issued by the state regulatory authority (RA) contains a “permit defect,” which the directive defines as meaning “a type of violation consisting of any procedural or substantive deficiency in a permit-related action taken by the RA (including permit issuance, permit revision, permit renewal, or transfer, assignment, or sale of permit rights).” The directive further states that OSMRE will not review pending permitting decisions and will not issue a TDN for an alleged violation involving a possible permit defect where the RA has not taken the relevant permitting action (e.g., permit issuance, permit revision, permit renewal, or transfer, assignment, or sale of permit rights).

Since the issuance of this policy and associated directive, concerns have been raised by some states and industry stakeholders regarding the potential impact on mining operations where the RA has issued a permit, revision, or renewal, and the operator has commenced activities based upon RA approval. The OSMRE in cooperation with the IMCC will revisit the policy and directive and revise or rescind, as appropriate to provide more certainty to the industry in the state RA permitting process.

The review will commence this calendar year; specific timelines and benchmarks will be established jointly with IMCC.

iv. *Revise Processing State Program Amendments Directive STP-1*

Directive STP-1, issued in October 2008, establishes policy and procedures for review and processing of amendments to state regulatory programs. Most changes in state law or regulations that impact an approved SMCRA regulatory program require submission of a formal program amendment to OSMRE for approval. Such changes to primacy programs cannot be implemented until a final amendment is approved by OSMRE. In addition, written concurrence must be received from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to those aspects of a state/tribal program amendment which relates to air or water quality standards promulgated under the authority of the Clean Air Act or the Clean Water Act prior to OSMRE approval. In accordance with 30 CFR 732.17(h)(13), OSMRE must complete a final action on program amendments within 7 months of receipt. Often, due to the complexities of the process and other issues, including influences outside of OSMRE, it is difficult for OSMRE to meet the required processing times.

The result is that state regulatory authorities are occasionally unable to move forward in a timely manner with needed program amendments.

Based upon the results of an internal control review (ICR) and work with the state/tribal work group, OSMRE is developing new training guides and opportunities for states and revising Directive STP-1 to improve the state program amendment process. The OSMRE will also review the process with the Office of the Solicitor to evaluate opportunities for process improvement. In addition, the recent approval by OMB of the information collection requirements of 30 CFR Part 732 was conditioned upon OSMRE developing new guidance and supporting documents for states to use when preparing amendments to approved programs. The OSMRE intends for these actions to reduce its processing time for state program amendments.

The revision of Directive STP-1 and development of training guides is anticipated to be completed this calendar year. OSMRE will track processing times once the revised directive and training have been implemented, and compare results to previous years. The OMB approval of new guidance for Part 732 is required by July 31, 2020.

v. *Revise or Rescind OSMRE Policy Advisory and Proposed Rulemaking: Self-Bonding*

On August 5, 2016, the OSMRE Director issued a policy advisory on self-bonding. The advisory was in direct response to three of the largest coal mine operators in the nation filing for Chapter 11 protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code between 2015 and 2016. Those companies held approximately \$2.5 billion of unsecured or non-collateralized self-bonds that various states with federally-approved SMCRA regulatory programs previously accepted to guarantee reclamation of land disturbed by coal mining. The advisory stated that “the bankruptcy filings confirm the existence of significant issues about the future financial abilities of coal companies and how they will meet future reclamation obligations.” While recognizing the action of certain state programs to address self-bonding issues, the advisory went on to say that “each regulatory authority should exercise its discretion and not accept new or additional self-bonds for any permit

until coal production and consumption market conditions reach equilibrium, events which are not likely to occur until at least 2021.” Since the issuance of this advisory, all three companies of concern have completed their plans for Chapter 11 reorganization, and either have or are expected to replace all self-bonds with other forms of financial guarantees.

In addition to the issuance of the policy advisory on self-bonding, OSMRE accepted a petition for rulemaking submitted March 3, 2016, by WildEarth Guardians. The petition requested that OSMRE revise its self-bonding regulations to ensure that companies with a history of insolvency, and their subsidiary companies, not be allowed to self-bond coal mining operations.

Limiting the use of self-bonds, as indicated in the policy advisory or potentially through a rulemaking, could impact a company’s ability to continue mining. In addition, there will likely be an increased demand and potential negative impact on the availability of third party surety bonding.

On January 17, 2017, the GAO announced that it will conduct an audit of financial assurances for reclaiming coal mines (Job Code 101326) that will focus on the role of OSMRE in implementing and overseeing the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act’s requirements related to financial assurances.

In view of the current status of the self-bonding bankruptcies and recent executive orders concerning rulemakings, OSMRE will reconsider the scope of the policy advisory and revise or rescind, as appropriate. In addition, OSMRE will revisit the need for and scope of any potential rulemaking in response to the previously accepted petition. Furthermore, OSMRE will carefully consider the report and recommendations of the pending GAO audit of financial assurances currently underway. The OSMRE will solicit public input prior to finalizing any decision on the need for further rulemaking.

The OSMRE will continue to monitor the status of self-bonding issues in state programs in cooperation with the IMCC and other stakeholders (sureties, industry, and environmental groups).

vi. *Revise or Rescind OSMRE Enforcement Memorandum Relationship between the Clean Water Act (CWA) and SMCRA*

On July 27, 2016, the OSMRE Director issued a policy memo to staff providing direction on the enforcement of the existing regulations related to violations of the CWA caused by SMCRA-permitted operations and related issues, such as responses to self-reported violations of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) limits and OSMRE responses to Notices of Intent (NOI) to sue alleging CWA violations at SMCRA-permitted operations. The policy memo specifically required an NOI to be processed as a citizen complaint, which requires OSMRE to issue a TDN to the state RA upon receipt of the NOI. In addition, the memo stated that a violation of water quality standards is also a violation of SMCRA regulations.

State regulatory authorities, as well as industry, have raised issues with this guidance document expressing concern with overlap and potential conflicts between section 702(a)(3)³ of SMCRA and the CWA. In addition, state RAs have raised concerns about new TDNs and related enforcement actions that have been issued in response to this policy guidance. The relationship between the CWA and SMCRA and the role of the state RAs in ensuring compliance in accordance with their approved SMCRA regulatory programs have been longstanding issues. Resolution will bring certainty to the state regulatory programs as well as for the industry.

The OSMRE will revisit the policy issues and concerns in cooperation with the IMCC and will revise or rescind the memorandum, as appropriate. Review of the policy with IMCC member states will commence this calendar year; the revised or rescinded policy should be complete by the end of this calendar year. The OSMRE will consider seeking public input prior to finalizing the policy.

vii. Revise Policy on Reclamation Fee for Coal Mine Waste (Uram Memo) and Propose Rule for Additional Incentives

On July 22, 1994, then-Director Robert Uram issued a memorandum outlining the conditions under which OSMRE would waive the assessment of reclamation fees on the removal of refuse or coal waste material for use as a waste fuel in a cogeneration facility. Recently, the Pennsylvania regulatory authority (PADEP) requested that OSMRE update this policy as outlined below to incentivize reclamation efforts on sites with coal refuse reprocessing activities.

The PADEP believes that the reclamation fees deter operators from reclamation efforts on sites with coal refuse reprocessing activities. Coal refuse sites located within the Anthracite Coal Region are unable or have ceased the removal of coal refuse to be used as waste fuel at co-generation facilities. This is partly or totally due to the assessment of reclamation fees on coal refuse used as waste fuel. In addition, PADEP recommended that OSMRE consider waste derived from filter presses at existing coal preparation plants to be a “no value”⁴ product, which would encourage its use as a waste fuel rather than requiring it to be disposed in a coal refuse pile.

The OSMRE will revisit the 1994 Uram Memo, with the goal of providing an incentive for use of coal refuse as a coal waste fuel. In addition, OSMRE will revisit the remaining incentives provided by the 2006 amendments to SMCRA at section 415, some of which apply specifically to removal or reprocessing of abandoned coal mine waste. Additional incentives pursuant to Section 415 will require promulgation of rules, and, therefore, input from the public will be solicited.

³ Nothing in this Act shall be construed as superseding, amending, modifying, or repealing the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 21a), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-47), or any of the following Acts or with any rule or regulation promulgated thereunder, including, but not limited to -- (3) The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (79 Stat. 903), as amended (33 U.S.C. 1151-1175), the State laws enacted pursuant thereto, or other Federal laws relating to preservation of water quality.

⁴ No value determinations are based upon the criteria established in the 1994 Uram Memorandum.

Providing additional incentives to industry to promote remining of coal refuse and other abandoned mine sites will provide for additional reclamation of abandoned mines that would not otherwise be accomplished through the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program. Specific benchmarks for measuring success, such as acres of additional reclamation performed, will be developed consistent with the implementation of the incentives.

viii. Energy-Related Information Collections under the Paperwork Reduction Act

The OSMRE reviewed the current industry costs associated with the Paperwork Reduction Act and did not find any information collections that “potentially burden⁵ the development or utilization of domestically produced energy resources” in accordance EO13783. It should be noted that there will be no industry costs associated with information collection based on the Stream Protection Rule, due to the Congressional Review Act nullification of that final rule.

F. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The FWS is reviewing its final rule, “Management of Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights,” 81 FR 79948 (Nov. 14, 2016) to determine whether revision would be appropriate to reduce burden on energy.

Additionally, below is a list of burdens and opportunities to fulfill the intent of the Executive Order:

i. Streamline Rights-of-way (ROW) for pipelines and electricity transmission

The approval process for new ROW access can be overly restrictive and excessively lengthy. The National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended, requires all uses, including rights-of-way, of National Wildlife Refuges to be compatible with the mission of the System. The FWS will work with stakeholders in a more timely fashion to determine if proposed ROW uses are compatible. Additionally, FWS will revise its ROW regulation to streamline the current ROW granting process to significantly decrease the time to obtain ROW approval from the current 3-12 month time frame.

ii. Review Incidental Take Regulations for oil and gas activities in the Southern Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea, under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)

The MMPA prohibits take (i.e., harass, hunt, capture, or kill) of marine mammals (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) unless authorized by the Secretary. Existing measures in the MMPA incidental take regulations require: 1) maintaining a minimum spacing of 15 miles between all active seismic source vessels and/or drill rigs during exploration activities in the Chukchi Sea; 2) no more than two simultaneous seismic operations and three offshore exploratory drilling operations authorized in the Chukchi Sea region at any time; 3) time restrictions for transit through the Chukchi Sea; 4) time and vessel restrictions in the

⁵ Burden “means to unnecessarily obstruct, delay, curtail, or otherwise impose significant costs on the siting, permitting, production, utilization, transmission, or delivery of energy resources” (Presidential Executive Order 13783, Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth, March 28, 2017).

Hanna Shoal Walrus Use Area; 5) location of polar bear dens and 1-mile buffer; 6) maximum distance around Pacific walruses and polar bears on ice and groups of Pacific walruses in water; 7) sound producing mitigation zones & shut-down/ramp up procedures; 8) marine mammal observers and monitoring requirements; and 9) excessive reporting requirements.

The FWS has the opportunity to review the Chukchi Sea incidental take regulation which expires in 2018, and the regulation for the southern Beaufort Sea expires in 2021. They may either be allowed to expire or be revised and reissued.

iii. *Modernize Guidance and regulations governing interagency consultation pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act*

Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act requires Federal agencies, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce (delegated to the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, respectively), to ensure that any action authorized, funded or carried out by the agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. However, the time and expense associated with satisfying the interagency consultation requirements are unnecessarily burdensome.

The FWS has discretion to create efficiencies and streamlining in the consultation process through targeted revision to regulations and/or guidance and is reviewing opportunities for further process improvements.

iv. *Build Upon the Efforts of the Western Governors' Association and Others to Improve the Application of the Endangered Species Act, Reduce Unnecessary Burdens on the Energy Industry, and Facilitate Conservation Stewardship*

A number of groups, most prominently the Western Governors' Association, have worked to evaluate and develop recommendations to improve the application of the ESA. For example, the Western Governors' Association developed the *Western Governors' Species Conservation and Endangered Species Act Initiative (Initiative)*, which conducts broad-based stakeholder discussions focused on issues such as identifying means of incentivizing voluntary conservation, elevating the role of states in species conservation, and improving the efficacy of the ESA. Interior intends to build on these efforts to improve the application of the ESA in a manner that ensures conservation stewardship, while reducing unneeded burdens on the public, including the energy industry.

v. *Re-Evaluate Whether the MBTA Imposes Incidental Take Liability and Clarify Regulatory Authorities.*

Federal Courts of Appeals have split on whether the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) imposes criminal liability on companies and individuals for the inadvertent death of migratory birds resulting from industrial activities. Three circuits—the fifth, eighth, and ninth—have held that it does not, limiting taking liability to deliberate acts done directly and intentionally to migratory birds. Two circuits—the second and tenth—have held that

it does. On January 10, 2017, the Office of the Solicitor issued an opinion regarding the issue, which was subsequently suspended pending further review of the opinion and the underlying regulations and decisions. This review is currently ongoing, and may serve as the basis for the development of new internal guidance or regulations that provide clarity to this longstanding issue.

vi. Evaluate the Merits of a General Permit for Incidental Take Under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

The FWS intends to evaluate the merits of a general permit for incidental take under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). When the bald eagle was delisted under the ESA, FWS issued a rule establishing a permit program for incidental take under BGEPA. On December 16, 2016, FWS adopted a final rule intended to address some of industry's concerns regarding the BGEPA incidental take permit process (81 FR 91494). One measure strongly supported by industry, a general permit for activities that constitute a low risk of taking eagles, was not considered as part of this rulemaking process, though FWS did accept comments on the subject for consideration in a future rulemaking. The FWS is reviewing these comments to determine whether additional regulatory changes would be appropriate to reduce the burden on industry.

G. Bureau of Reclamation

The BOR is the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, operating 53 hydroelectric power facilities, comprising 14,730 megawatts of capacity. Each year, BOR generates over 40 million megawatt-hours of electricity (the equivalent demand of approximately 3.5 million US homes),⁶ producing over one billion dollars in Federal revenue. In addition to our authorities to develop, operate, and maintain Federal hydropower facilities, BOR is also authorized to permit the use of our non-powered assets to non-Federal entities for the purposes of hydropower development via a lease of power privilege (LOPP).

The BOR is committed to facilitating the development of non-Federal hydropower at our existing Federal assets. Acting on this commitment, BOR has undertaken a number of activities, including:

- i. Completion of two publically available resource assessments.*
Assessments identify technical hydropower potential at existing BOR facilities, irrespective of financial viability.
- ii. Collaboration with stakeholder groups to improve the LOPP process and LOPP Directive and Standard (D&S) policy guidance document.*

A BOR LOPP is a contractual right given to a non-Federal entity to use a BOR asset (e.g. dam or conduit) for electric power generation consistent with BOR project purposes.

The BOR has conducted LOPP outreach with stakeholder groups and hydropower industry associations; and made resources and staff available via a LOPP website: <https://www.usbr.gov/power/LOPP/index.html>. The BOR has also partnered with sister

⁶ See, <https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=97&t=3>

agencies (United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Energy) under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Hydropower to, in part, encourage and streamline non-Federal development on Federal infrastructure.

Through these activities, BOR has made resources available to developers and peeled back the barriers that may burden non-Federal hydropower development - while continuing to protect the Federal assets that our customers, operating partners, and stakeholders have depended on for over a century. The response BOR has received from these groups (including the development community) in this effort has been overwhelmingly positive. LOPP projects provide a source of reliable, domestic, and sustainable generation that supports rural economies and the underlying Federal water resource project.

H. Bureau of Indian Affairs

The BIA provides services to nearly 2 million American Indians and Alaska Natives in 567 federally recognized tribes in the 48 contiguous States and Alaska. The BIA's natural resource programs assist tribes in the management, development, and protection of Indian trust land and natural resources on 56 million surface acres and 59 million subsurface mineral estates. These programs enable tribal trust landowners to optimize sustainable stewardship and use of resources, providing benefits such as revenue, jobs and the protection of cultural, spiritual, and traditional resources. Income from energy production is the largest source of revenue generated from trust lands, with royalty income of \$534 million in 2016.

Indian Energy Actions

i. Clarify "Inherently Federal Functions for Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERAs)"

Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERAs) are authorized under Title V of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. A TERA is a means by which a tribe could be authorized to review, approve, and manage business agreements, leases, and rights-of-way pertaining to energy development on Indian trust lands, absent approval of each individual transaction by the Secretary. Interior promulgated TERA regulations in 2008 at 25 CFR part 224. The TERAs offer the opportunity to promote development of domestically produced energy resources on Indian land; however, 12 years after the passage of the Act and 9 years after the issuance of TERA regulations, not one tribe has sought Interior's approval for a TERA. One theory asserted by at least one tribe as to the failure of this legislation is the Act does not address precisely how much Federal oversight would disappear for tribes operating under TERAs. Specifically, Interior had not defined the term "inherently Federal functions" that Interior will retain following approval of a TERA. This term appears in Interior's regulations at 25 CFR §§ 224.52(c) and 224.53(e)(2), but not in the Act. Without some assurance as to the benefits (in terms of less Federal oversight) a tribe would receive through clarification of "inherently Federal functions," tribes have no incentive to undergo the intensive process of applying for a TERA. Clarification of this phrase would also address Recommendation 5 of GAO-15-502, *Indian Energy Development: Poor Management by BIA Has Hindered Energy Development on Indian Lands* (June 2015). The recommendation directed Interior to "provide additional energy

development-specific guidance on provisions of TERA regulations that tribes have identified to Interior as unclear.”

The BIA has been working closely with the Office of the Solicitor to develop guidance on how Interior will interpret the term “inherently Federal functions.” It is expected that by providing this certainty as to the scope of Federal oversight, tribes will better be able to justify the process of applying for a TERA. The BIA expects to have the guidance finalized and available on its website by October 2017.

The BIA anticipates that the benefits of this action will be to promote the use of TERAs, which will both save tribes the time and resources necessary to seek and obtain Interior approval of each transaction related to energy development on Indian land, and will help ease Interior’s workload by eliminating the need for Departmental review of each individual transaction.

The reduction in burden will be measured by the number of tribes that choose to obtain TERAs. Once each tribe obtains a TERA, Interior will work with the tribe to estimate savings in terms of time and resources.

I. Integrated Activity Plan for Oil & Gas in the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska

Noting that the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPR-A) is the largest block of federally managed land in the United States and offers economically recoverable oil and natural gas, the Secretary issued an order focusing on management of this area in a manner that appropriately balances promoting development and protecting surface resources. *See* Secretarial Order 3352, “National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska” (May 31, 2017). Currently, 11 million acres (or 48 percent) of the total 22.8 million acres in the NPR-A are closed to leasing under the current Integrated Activity Plan (IAP). The Secretarial Order requires review and revision of the IAP for management of the area and, within the existing plan, maximizing the tracts offered during the next lease sale.

J. Mitigation

Implemented properly, mitigation can be a beneficial tool for advancing the Administration’s goals of American energy independence and security, while ensuring public resources are managed for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.

Interior seeks to establish consistent, effective and transparent mitigation principles and standards across all its Agencies. Interior and its bureaus and offices intends to develop consistent terminology, reduce redundancies, and simplify frameworks so that the Federal mitigation programs and stepped down programs are more predictable and consistent. Some mitigation is facilitated by goodwill and some is through our regulatory paradigm.

BLM

- i. *Review and Revise Mitigation Manual Section (MS-1794) and Handbook (H-1794-1) Related to Mitigation, Which Provide Direction on the Use of Mitigation, Including Compensatory Mitigation, To Support the BLM's Multiple-Use and Sustained-Yield Mandates.*

The Mitigation Manual Section and Handbook provide direction on the use of mitigation, including compensatory mitigation, to support BLM's multiple use and sustained yield mandates. The BLM is reviewing whether the 2016 Manual and Handbook replaced several IMs (IM Numbers 2005-069, 2008-204, and 2013-142) issued by BLM for the same purpose.

The BLM is considering revisions to the Manual and Handbook to provide greater predictability (internally and externally), ease conflicts, and may reduce permitting/authorizations times.

Measuring success would be largely quantitative. The BLM would continue to track impacts from land use authorizations and would also track the type and amount of compensatory mitigation implemented and its effectiveness, preferably in a centralized database.

The BLM is drafting an IM that provides interim direction regarding new and ongoing mitigation practices while the Manual and Handbook are being reviewed and revised. Use of the existing Manual and Handbook would continue, as modified and limited by this IM, until they are superseded.

- ii. *Review of Manual 6220 National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations (07/13/2012) To Assure That It Conforms to BLM's Revised Mitigation Guidance.*

Manual 6220 provides guidance for managing BLM National Conservation Lands designated by Congress or the President as National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and similar designations (NM/NCA) in order to comply with the designating Acts of Congress and Presidential Proclamations, FLPMA, and the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 7202). Manual 6220 requires that when processing a new ROW application, BLM will determine, to the greatest extent possible, through the NEPA process, the consistency of the ROW with the Monument or NCA's objects and values; consider routing or siting the ROW outside of the Monument or NCA; and consider mitigation of the impacts from the ROW. Land use plans must identify management actions, allowable uses, restrictions, management actions regarding any valid existing rights, and mitigation measures to ensure that the objects and values are protected. The manual requires that a land use plan for a Monument or NCA should consider closing the area to mineral leasing, mineral material sales, and vegetative sales, subject to valid existing rights, where that component's designating authority does not already do so.

A review of Manual 6220 to identify where clarity could be provided for mitigation, notification standards, and compatible uses, may potentially reduce or eliminate burdens. The BLM will review Manual 6220 following the proposed revisions to BLM Mitigation Manual Section (MS-1794) and Handbook (H-1794-1) to ensure that Manual 6220 conforms to the BLM's revised mitigation guidance.

Addressing any potential issues, along with providing consistency with BLM Mitigation Manual is expected to provide greater predictability (internally and externally), reduce conflicts, and may reduce permitting/authorizations times.

Success will be measured in BLM meeting legal obligations under the designating Act or Proclamation for each unit and the allowance of compatible multiple uses, consistent with applicable provisions in the designating Act or Proclamation.

iii. Other Reviews of BLM Manual Provisions

Secretarial Order 3349 also revoked a prior order regarding mitigation and directed bureaus to examine all existing policies and other documents related to mitigation and climate change. (*See* Secretarial Order 3330 "Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior.") Actions Interior is taking to implement this direction include:

- **BLM Manual 6400 – Wild and Scenic Rivers, Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, Planning, and Management (07/13/2012)**

Manual 6400 provides guidance for managing eligible and suitable wild and scenic rivers and designated wild and scenic rivers in order to fulfill requirements found in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA). Subject to valid existing rights, the Manual states that minerals in any Federal lands that constitute the bed or bank or are situated within 1/4 mile of the bank of any river listed under section 5(a) are withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws, for the time periods specified in section 7(b) of the WSRA. The Manual allows new leases, licenses, and permits under mineral leasing laws be made, but requires that consideration be given to applying conditions necessary to protect the values of the river corridor. For wild river segments, the Manual requires that new contracts for the disposal of saleable mineral material, or the extension or renewal of existing contracts, should be avoided to the greatest extent possible to protect river values.

Manual 6400 will be reviewed following the proposed revisions to BLM Mitigation Manual Section and Handbook to ensure that it conforms to BLM revised mitigation guidance. Although the requirements for minerals and mineral withdrawals are legally mandated under the mining and mineral leasing laws in sections 9(a) and 15(2) of the WSRA, Manual 6400 will be reviewed for opportunities to clarify discretionary decision-space.

Ensuring consistency with the BLM Mitigation Manual will foster greater predictability (internally and externally), reduce conflicts, and may reduce

permitting/authorizations times.

Success will be measured in terms of complying with the WSRA and identifying and allowing compatible multiple uses.

- **BLM Manual 6280 – Management of National Scenic and Historic Trails and Trails under Study or Recommended as Suitable for Congressional Designation (09/14/2012)**

Manual 6280 provides guidance for managing trails under study, trails recommended as suitable, and congressionally designated National Scenic and Historic Trails to fulfill the requirements of the National Trails System Act (NTSA) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. Manual 6280 identifies mitigation as one way to address substantial interference with the natural and purposes for which a National Trail is designated.

Manual 6280 will be reviewed following the proposed revisions to the BLM Mitigation Manual Section and Handbook to ensure it conforms to the BLM revised mitigation guidance. Although many of the requirements are legally mandated under the National Trails System Act, Manual 6280 will be reviewed for opportunities to clarify any discretionary decision-space to reduce or eliminate burdens.

Addressing any potential issues, along with providing consistency with the BLM Mitigation Manual is expected to provide greater predictability (internally and externally), reduce conflicts, and may reduce permitting/authorizations time.

Success will be measured in terms of complying with the NTSA and identifying and allowing compatible multiple uses.

FWS

iv. Compensatory Mitigation for Impacts to Migratory Bird Habitat

The FWS has the authority to recommend, but not require, mitigation for impacts to migratory bird habitat under several Federal authorities. Pursuant to a Memoranda of Understanding with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), implementing EO13186 (January 10, 2001), FWS evaluates the impacts of FERC-licensed interstate pipelines to migratory bird habitat.

The FWS is developing Service-wide guidance to ensure the bureau is consistent, fair and objective, appropriately characterizes the voluntary nature of compensatory mitigation for impacts to migratory bird habitat, and demonstrates a reasonable nexus between anticipated impacts and recommended mitigation. The FWS anticipates it will take 3 months to finalize the guidance.

Guidance will result in timely and practicable licensing decisions, while providing for the conservation of migratory Birds of Conservation Concern.

Success will be measured by timely issuance of licenses that contain appropriate recommendations that do not impose burdensome costs to developers.

The FWS Regional and Field Offices will provide informal guidance through email and regularly scheduled conference calls to educate and remind staff of policy.

v. *Mitigation Actions - Regulations and Policy Governing Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs)*

The CCAAs are developed to encourage voluntary conservation efforts to benefit species that are candidates for listing by providing the regulatory assurance that take associated with implementing an approved candidate conservation agreement will be permitted under section 10(a)(1)(A) for the Endangered Species Act if the species is ultimately listed, and that no additional mitigation requirements will be imposed.

Recent revisions to the CCAA regulations and policy and the adoption of “net conservation benefit” as an issuance standard has been perceived by some to impose an unnecessary, ambiguous, and burdensome standard that will discourage voluntary conservation. There are also concerns with the preamble language that suggested that CCAAs may not be appropriate vehicles for permitting take of listed species resulting from oil and gas development activities.

The FWS will solicit public review and comment on the need and basis for a revision of the CCAA regulation and associated policy for the purpose of evaluating whether it should maintain or revise the current regulation and policy or reinstate the former ones. The FWS anticipates that it will take 3 months to prepare the Federal Register Notice soliciting public review and comments. The FWS will then publish the Federal Register Notice with a 60-day comment period. Based upon comments received, FWS will decide whether and how to revise the regulation and policy.

The anticipated benefits will be ensuring the CCAA standard is clear and encourages stakeholder participation in voluntary conservation of candidate and other at-risk species.

Success will be measured by FWS providing timely assistance to developers if they seek a CCAA.

The FWS Headquarters will provide Regional and Field Offices with informal guidance through email and regularly scheduled conference calls to remind staff of the regulation and policy review.

vi. *Mitigation Actions - FWS Mitigation Policy*

In 2016, FWS finalized revisions to its 1981 Mitigation Policy, which guides FWS recommendations on mitigating the adverse impacts of land and water development on fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.

Some stakeholders believe the revised policy's mitigation planning goal exceeds statutory authority.

The FWS will solicit public review and comment for the purpose of evaluating the policy. The FWS anticipates that it will take 3 months to prepare the Federal Register Notice soliciting public review and comment on the policy. The FWS will then publish the Federal Register Notice with a 60-day comment period. Based upon comments received, FWS will decide whether and how to revise the policy.

The anticipated benefits will be timely and practicable mitigation recommendations by FWS staff to energy developers (and others) that promote conservation of species and their habitats.

Success will be measured by incorporation of recommendations without delays to the permitting or licensing process.

The FWS Headquarters will provide FWS Regional and Field Offices informal guidance through email and regularly scheduled conference calls to remind staff of the policy review.

vii. FWS ESA Compensatory Mitigation Policy

In 2016, FWS finalized its ESA Compensatory Mitigation Policy (CMP), which steps down and implements the 2016 revised the FWS Mitigation Policy (including the mitigation planning goal). The CMP was established to improve consistency and effectiveness in the use of compensatory mitigation. Its primary intent is to provide FWS staff with direction and guidance in the planning and implementation of compensatory mitigation.

Some stakeholders believe the mitigation planning goal exceeds statutory authority.

The FWS will solicit public review and comment for the purpose of evaluating whether it should modify the policy. Additional legal review will be undertaken after comments are reviewed. The FWS anticipates that it will take three months to prepare the Federal Register Notice soliciting public review and comment on the policy. The FWS will then publish the Federal Register Notice with a 60-day comment period. Based upon comments received, FWS will decide whether and how to revise the policy.

The anticipated benefits will be timely and practicable mitigation recommendations by FWS staff to energy developers (and others) that promote conservation of species and their habitats.

Success will be measured by incorporation of recommendations without delays to the permitting or licensing process.

The FWS Headquarters will provide FWS Regional and Field Offices informal guidance through email and regularly scheduled conference calls to remind staff of the policy review.

viii. Interim Guidance on Implementing the Final ESA Compensatory Mitigation Policy

This document provides interim guidance for implementing the Service's CMP. The guidance provides operational detail on the establishment, use, and operation of compensatory mitigation projects and programs as tools for offsetting adverse impacts to endangered and threatened species, species proposed as endangered or threatened, and designated and proposed critical habitat under the ESA.

Within 6 months of completing revisions to the ESA Compensatory Mitigation Policy (CMP) (or deciding revisions to the CMP are not necessary), FWS will revise the interim implementation guidance (to be consistent with the revised CMP) and make it available for public review and comment in the Federal Register for 60 days. Within 6 months of close of the comment period, FWS will publish the final implementation guidance in the Federal Register (Note: we anticipate that the implementation guidance may need to be reviewed under the Paperwork Reduction Act, which may affect the timeline).

The anticipated benefits will be timely and practicable mitigation recommendations by FWS staff to energy developers (and others) that promote conservation of species and their habitats.

Success will be measured by incorporation of recommendations without delays to the permitting or licensing process.

The FWS Headquarters will issue a memorandum to Regional and Field staff reiterating the limited applicability of the CMP's mitigation planning goal and that decisions related to compensatory mitigation must comply with the ESA and its implementing regulations.

K. Climate Change

Interior is reviewing bureau reports of the work conducted to identify requirements relevant to climate that can potentially burden the development or uses of domestically produced energy resources. Most of the bureaus found no existing requirements in place. A couple of bureaus have non-regulatory documents (i.e., handbook, memo, manual, guidance, etc.) that inwardly focus on their units and workforce management activities. Interior is reviewing these to better understand their connection to other management, operations and guidance documents.

BLM

The BLM rescinded its Permanent Instruction Memorandum (PIM) 2017-003 (Jan. 12, 2017).

This Permanent IM transmitted the CEQ guidance on consideration of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the effects of climate change in NEPA reviews, and provided general guidelines for calculating reasonably foreseeable direct and indirect GHG emissions of proposed actions.

As the CEQ guidance was withdrawn pursuant to section 3 of EO13783, the BLM Permanent IM was rescinded. In the future, BLM will consider issuing new guidance to its offices on approaches for calculating reasonably foreseeable direct and indirect GHG emissions of proposed and related actions.

Any new IM would provide guidance on consideration of GHG emissions and the effects of climate change in NEPA reviews. The BLM is also developing a unified Air Resources Toolkit that can be used across all organizational levels to consistently calculate, as needed and appropriate, relevant air emissions for a variety of BLM resource management functions. Once available, this toolkit will expedite analysis of reasonably foreseeable GHG emissions associated with energy and mineral development.

V. Outreach Summary

To ensure that Interior is considering the input of all viewpoints affected by the identified actions to reduce the burden on domestic energy, Interior has been, and will continue to, seek from outside entities through various means of public outreach including, but not limited to, working closely with affected stakeholders. In accordance with Administrative Procedure Act requirements, the Department is seeking public input on each proposal to revise or rescind individual energy-related regulatory requirements. The Department is also considering input it receives as part of its regulatory reform efforts through www.regulations.gov when such input relates to energy-related regulations.

The Department's outreach efforts encompass state, local, and tribal governments, as well as stakeholders such as the Western Governors' Association, Interstate Mining Compact Commission, and natural resource and outdoorsmen groups. To comply with tribal consultation requirements, Interior will host a separate consultation with official representatives of tribal governments on matters that substantially affect tribes, in accordance with the Department's policy on consultation with tribal governments.

VI. Conclusion

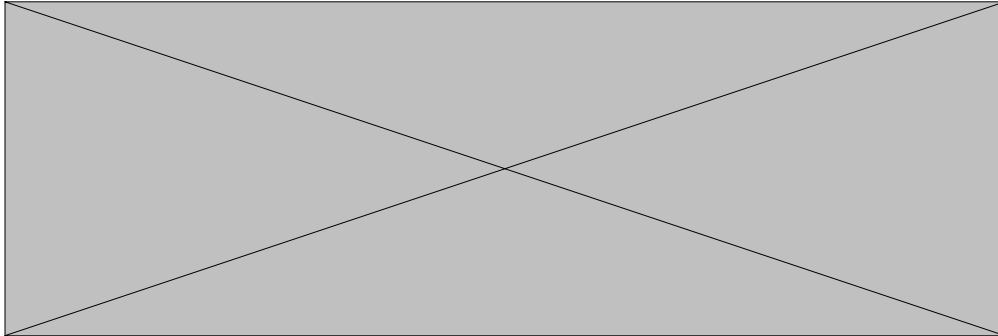
Interior is aggressively working to put America on track to achieve the President's vision for energy dominance and bring jobs back to communities across the country. Working with state, local and tribal communities, as well as other stakeholders, Secretary Zinke is instituting sweeping reforms to unleash America's energy opportunities.

VII. Attachments

Secretarial Orders and Secretary's Memorandum

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-25T17:10:29-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Department of the Interior Releases Energy Burdens Report
Received: 2017-10-25T17:11:10-04:00

Please click and read the first link for the entire report... DOI Energy Dominance coming soon.



Date: October 25, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Department of the Interior Releases Energy Burdens Report

Outlines Trump Administration's bold approach to achieving American energy dominance

WASHINGTON Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior released the "[Review of the Department of the Interior Actions that Potentially Burden Domestic Energy](#)" report which was produced in response to Executive Order 13783. The report identified agency actions that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources, with particular attention to oil, natural gas, coal, and nuclear energy resources. Interior oversees America's oil, gas, coal, hydropower, and renewable energy resources produced on federal lands and waters, which account for almost one-fifth of the Nation's energy and generate on average \$10 billion per year in annual revenue. Today, Secretary Zinke also signed [Secretarial Order 3358](#), that will establish the Executive Committee for Expedited Permitting.

“Developing our energy resources to grow our economy and protecting the environment are not mutually exclusive. However, while conducting the review outlined in the Executive Order, we found that several costly and burdensome regulations from the past threaten that balance by hampering the production or transmission of our domestic energy,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “Our public lands are meant to be managed for the benefit of the people. That means a multiple-use approach where appropriate and making sure that multiple-use includes energy development under reasonable regulations. Following President Trump’s leadership, Interior is fostering domestic energy production by streamlining permitting and revising and repealing Obama-era job killing regulations all while doing so in an environmentally responsible way.”

“The federal government can and must be a better business partner,” **Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy, said.** “Secretary Zinke’s bold approach to achieving American energy dominance is making our nation freer, more secure, and more prosperous. Regulations should not unnecessarily burden energy production, but that is what occurs in many cases. The recent actions outlined in this energy report show how Interior is rolling back some of these burdensome regulations that add little or no value, while promoting responsible energy development.”

The report identified a number of burdens that specifically impede the production and transportation of energy resources, including, but not limited to:

- **Obama-Era 5-Year Program** Under the last Administration, 94% of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) was put off-limits from leasing, having an adverse effect on jobs and energy dominance, while drastically reducing access to future revenue.
 - Trump Administration Action: Secretarial Order 3350, America-First Offshore Energy Strategy started the process of developing a new 5-Year Program to responsibly develop the OCS and generate much-needed revenue.
- **Federal Coal Leasing Moratorium (Secretarial Order 3338, Discretionary Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Modernize the Federal Coal Program)** Nearly 40% of our nation's coal comes from public lands. The 2016 coal moratorium undermines American energy security, inhibits job creation, and reduces revenues to state and local governments.
 - Action: Secretarial Order 3348, Concerning the Federal Coal Moratorium repealed the Obama-era moratorium on new federal coal leases.
- **Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands Rule** The compliance costs of the existing 2015 rule on hydraulic fracturing are not justified. All 32 states with federal oil and gas leases and some tribes currently have laws or regulations that address hydraulic fracturing operations.
 - Action: Secretarial Order 3349: American Energy Independence put the rule under review. The BLM published a rulemaking to rescind the rule on July 25th.
- **Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation AKA the Venting and Flaring Rule** The rule imposes a substantial burden on industry, especially for marginal well production in energy-rich states like New Mexico, particularly the requirements that are set to become effective on January 17, 2018.
 - Action: Secretarial Order 3349: American Energy Independence put the rules under review for subsequent action by the Department. On October 5, 2017, the BLM issued a proposed rule to temporarily suspend certain requirements of the rule. The BLM is also actively reviewing the underlying regulation for potential revision.
- **Unnecessarily lengthy NEPA reviews delay projects** The NEPA process has added extra time and analysis to project completion, which adds to uncertainty for industry and higher costs for taxpayers. This is particularly true for Departmental actions that impact energy and infrastructure projects, such as resource management planning, permitting,

and issuance of rights-of-way for pipeline projects and electricity transmission.

- Actions: The Department has identified a number of rules and regulations to revise or rescind such as the Master Leasing Plans, the NEPA Compliance for Oil and Gas Lease Reinstatement Petitions, and the Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plans. In addition, the Deputy Secretary issued an August memo setting a deadline of one year and limiting EIS statements to 150 pages or 300 pages for unusually complex projects.

• **Holding energy producers hostage via Compensatory Mitigation (Secretarial Order 3330)** Current compensatory mitigation policies have reduced predictability, created conflicts, and unnecessarily increased permitting/authorization timelines. Additionally, industry stakeholders believe the mitigation planning goal exceeds statutory authority. Currently, Interior and its bureaus lack a consistent terminology and framework for mitigation.

- Action: Secretarial Order 3349: American Energy Independence reexamined the use of mitigation policies and practices in order to better balance conservation strategies and job creation. Bureaus at the Interior will review various handbooks and manuals on the use of mitigation for energy and infrastructure projects.

• **Systematic delays in the leasing program and permitting process** The long period from when acreage is first nominated to when those acres are offered at a lease sale, as well as delays between the lease sale date and when leases are awarded reduces industry certainty and hinders states from receiving their share of lease sale revenues. These delays have rendered industry less able to plan for and execute exploration and production strategies in a timely fashion, and less able to respond effectively to changing market conditions.

- Action: Secretarial Order 3354 Supporting and Improving the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Federal Solid Mineral Leasing Program. Secretarial Order 3358 to form a permit expediting committee. In January 2017 there were 92 vacancies in key positions related to the permitting process. Since that time this administration has filled nearly half of those positions. The BLM is also modernizing the software used to track and coordinate permitting while seeking to add regional teams that will be able to greatly streamline the permitting process. So far this year the BLM has decreased their processing time for APDs by an average of 46 days.

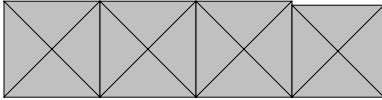
• **Endangered Species Act** The Endangered Species Act (ESA) is taken into consideration for both on- and offshore energy and infrastructure projects. It has far-reaching negative impacts on energy production and transmission as well as on critical infrastructure projects. ESA abuses have led to increased costs and delays on projects.

- Action: Secretarial Order 3353: Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States Work with the Western Governors Association and other local partners to develop recommendations to improve the application of the ESA. Launch a review of ESA regulations and policy documents regarding outdated, unnecessary, ineffective, and inconsistently aligned with Executive and Secretarial Orders.

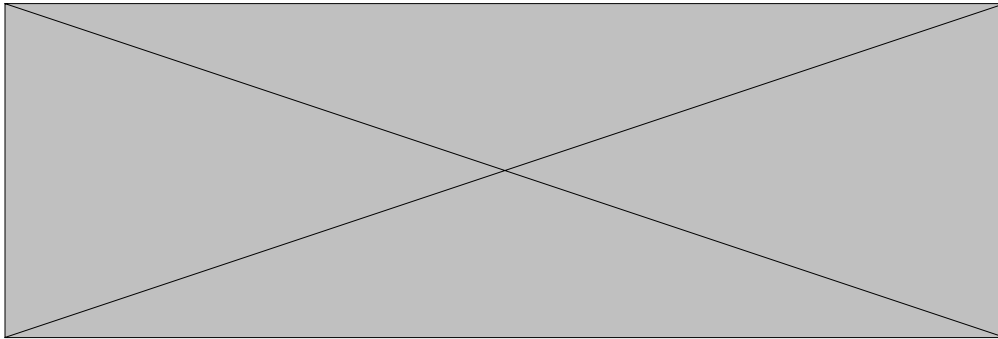
The report also detailed extensive action taken to advance American Energy Dominance at the Department of the Interior, including, but not limited to:

- Secretarial Order 3351: Strengthening the Department of the Interior's Energy Portfolio
- Secretarial Order 3352: National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska
- Secretarial Order 3353: Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States
- Reestablishing the Royalty Policy Committee to ensure the public continues to receive the full value of energy produced on federal lands.
- Review, repeal, and rewriting of the following rules: the BSEE Well Control and BOP Rules, the ONRR Valuation Rule, and the OSMRE Stream Protection Rule.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-26T12:08:58-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Zinke Cheers President Trump's Nomination of Steven Gardner for Interior Post
Received: 2017-10-26T12:09:30-04:00



Date: October 26, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Zinke Cheers President Trump's Nomination of Steven Gardner for Interior Post

WASHINGTON Today, President Donald J. Trump announced the nomination of Steven Gardner to be the Director of the office of Surface Mining, Reclamation & Enforcement (OSMRE) at the U.S. Department of the Interior. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke hailed Gardner's nomination.

"When confirmed, Steve will be an unbelievable asset to coal country and the entire team at the Department of the Interior," **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. "Steve is highly regarded in the mining industry for his extensive experience and insight. Steve will help Interior take the proper steps forward to ensure American Energy dominance is achieved, while also being a responsible steward of American lands. We very much look forward to a quick confirmation process."

"I am beyond humbled and honored to be nominated by President Trump for the Director of OSMRE," **said Steven Gardner**. "My whole life, I have been involved with mining on multiple levels, and I understand the importance of these issues to the communities we serve. I pledge to work every day on behalf of the men and women across this country who look to the OSMRE office as a partner in bettering life for all people on mining lands."

Steve Gardner is currently serving as the President and CEO of ECSI, LLC, a consulting practice where he focused on natural resources, mining, reclamation, energy, environmental, health and safety issues. As a Licensed Professional Engineer, Gardner has worked on projects throughout the US and internationally. Gardner was the 2015 President of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration (SME) and is recognized as a Distinguished Member.

“I applaud President Donald Trump for picking Steve Gardner of Kentucky to lead the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE),” **said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell**. “Steve will be a strong leader and I look forward to the U.S. Senate considering his nomination.”

“Having Kentuckian Steve Gardner lead the Office of Surface Mining will be a welcome relief to Kentucky and the nation,” **said Senator Rand Paul**. “The last administration’s OSM ignored science and economics when it worked to put an end to Kentucky coal mining with an overreaching rule on waterways near coal mines. With Mr. Gardner’s background in mining, I am confident that this administration’s OSM will ease up eight years of executive overreach and finally allow Kentucky coal to compete again in our nation’s all of the above energy policy.”

“I applaud the Trump Administration for selecting J. Steven Gardner of Lexington, Kentucky as the Director of the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement,” **said Congressman Andy Barr**. “I have known Steve for many years and I was proud to recommend him for this important nomination. As a well-respected leader in the mining industry with vast experience and knowledge, I am confident Steve will make an outstanding Director of OSM.”

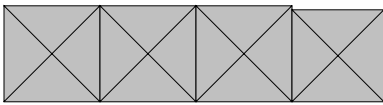
“America’s mining industry welcomes Steve Gardner’s nomination to become the next director of OSMRE,” **said Hal Quinn, the CEO of the National Mining Association**. “A Kentucky native, Mr. Gardner has had a distinguished career as CEO of a prominent mining engineering firm with 40 years’ experience in mining, engineering, reclamation, environmental, health and safety matters. He is held in high regard by his professional peers having been elected President of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME), a professional society with over 13,000 members in 100 countries representing scientists, engineers and professionals serving the minerals and mining industries.”

Greg Conrad, Executive Director of the Interstate Mining Compact Commission, also expressed his personal support for Steve Gardner noting his outstanding credentials and his knowledge of the intricacies of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, in particular the importance of state primacy under the Act as well as the state/federal relationship envisioned by the Act.

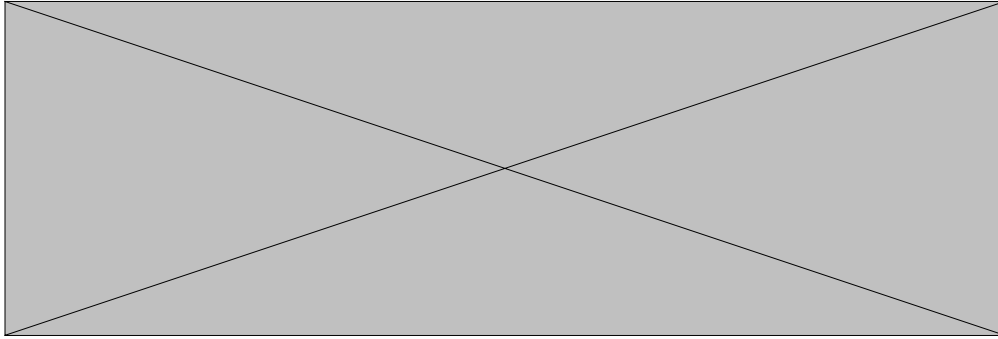
Mr. Gardner has an MS in Mining Engineering with a Graduate Certification in Environmental Systems and a BS in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Kentucky. In 2011, he was inducted into the College of Engineering Hall of Distinction. He has previously served on the University of Kentucky Mining Engineering Foundation, Kentucky Geological Survey, Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering Advisory Boards, and was a member of the Kentucky Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Surveyors.

The Bureau of OSMRE is responsible for establishing a nationwide program to protect society and the environment from the adverse effects of surface coal mining operations, under which OSMRE is charged with balancing the nation’s need for continued domestic coal production with protection of the environment. Although a small bureau, OSMRE has achieved big results by working closely with those closest to the problem: the States, Tribes, local groups, the coal industry and communities.

####



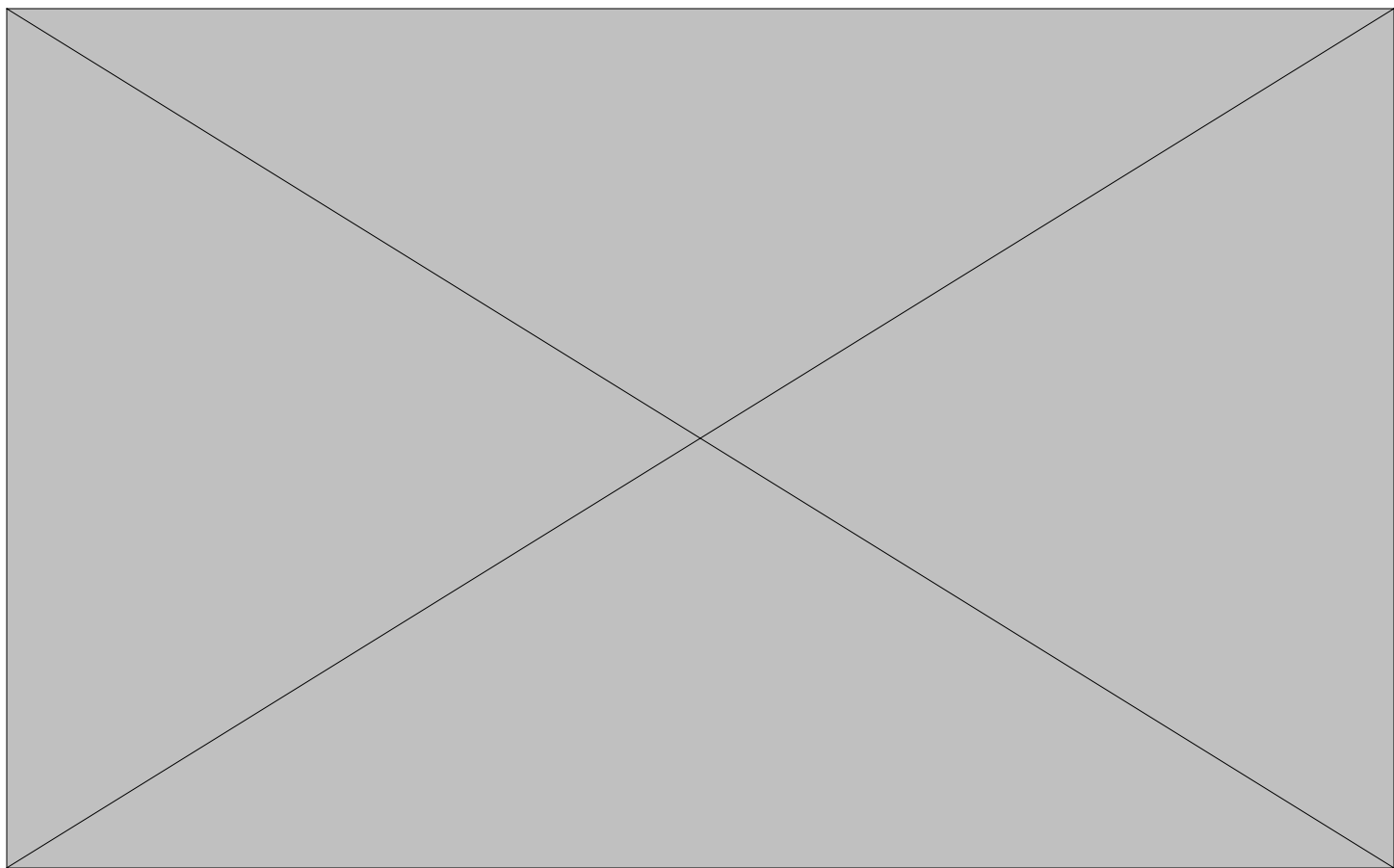
From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-26T18:14:57-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke and Interior Leadership host First-Ever Public Lands Access for Veterans Meeting at Interior
Received: 2017-10-26T18:15:31-04:00



Date: October 26, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

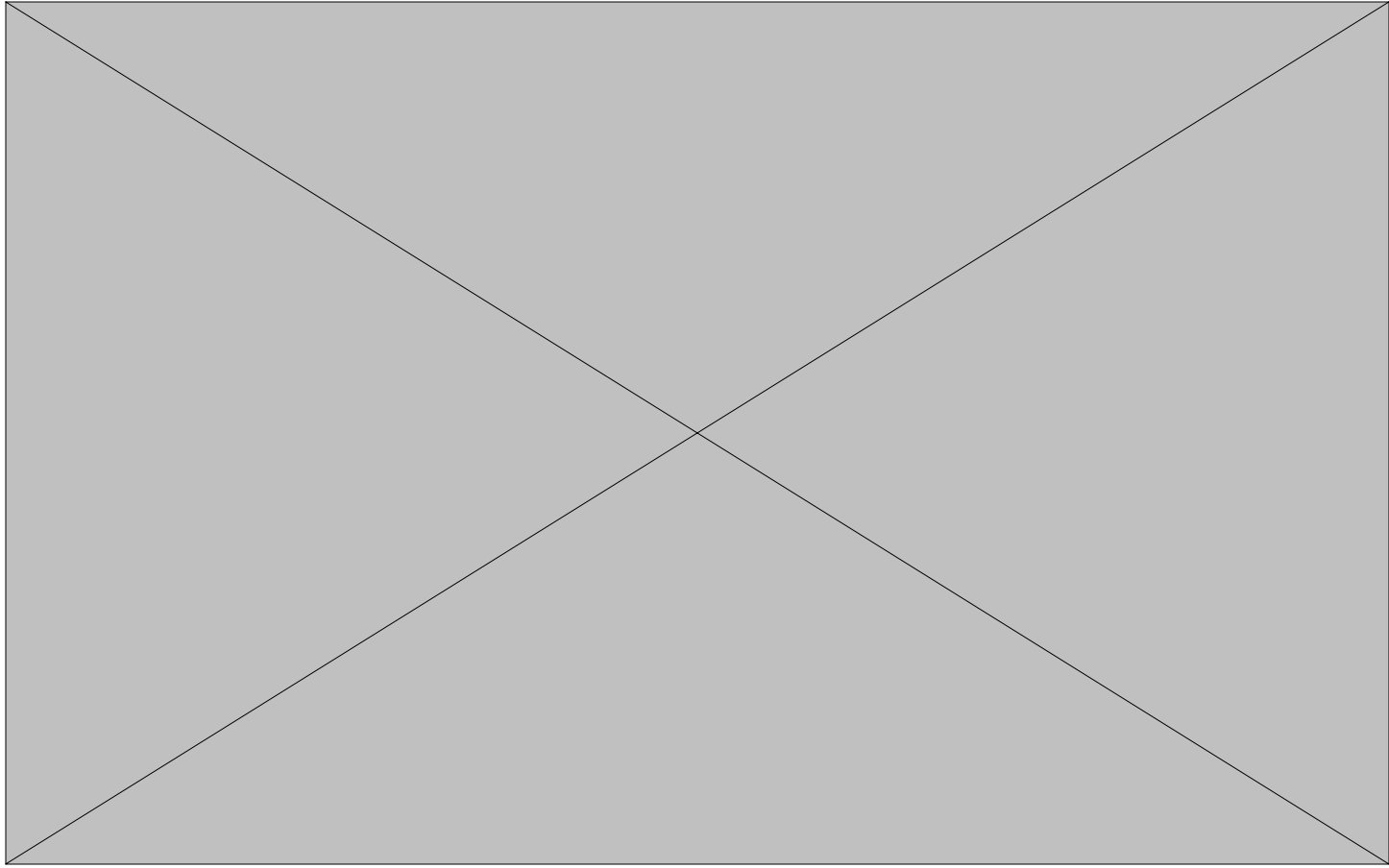
Secretary Zinke and Interior Leadership host First-Ever Public Lands Access for Veterans Meeting at Interior

WASHINGTON As part of “National Hunting and Fishing Month” today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke hosted a first-of-its-kind meeting with veteran service organizations to share experiences and ideas to make public lands more accessible to veterans with and without disabilities. The Hunting and Fishing Access for Veterans roundtable discussion was hosted by Secretary Zinke and included members of his leadership team. More than 20 veteran advocates participated, including many who specialize in hunting and fishing therapy for returning warriors.

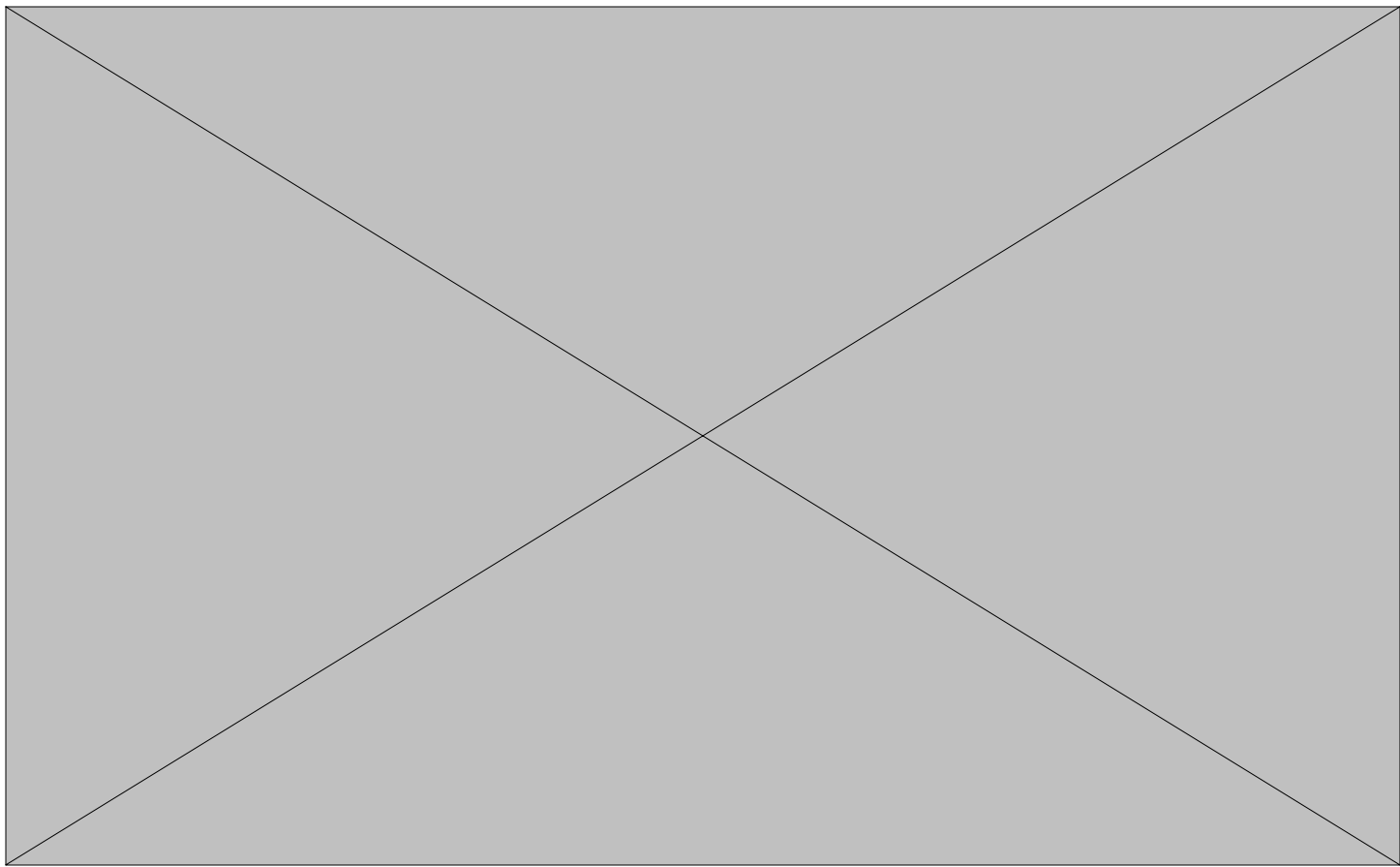


“Hunting and fishing are more than a pastime. They are a way for us to connect with the land and the people we're with, while also helping recharge body, mind, and soul in the solace of nature,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Hunting and fishing present such an incredible healing opportunity for our veterans who return home with physical and emotional wounds. Unfortunately, many of our public lands are either inaccessible to individuals with various physical disabilities, or we just don't offer programs to encourage veterans to access and use them. I want these warriors to be able to return home from their service and enjoy the very lands they fought to protect. I want to make sure hunting and fishing on public lands is easily accessible and available. Hearing ideas from leaders in the veteran community about how to achieve this goal has given my team some much-needed insight as we move forward.”

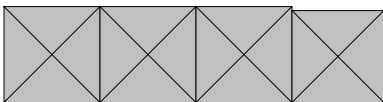
Army Green Beret John Wayne Walding and Benghazi warrior Mark "Oz" Geist, both motivational speakers and combat veterans, shared their personal stories about how hunting on public lands helped them recover from battlefield injuries and strengthened the bonds with their families. Walding spoke of the first hunt he took in Alaska after having his leg amputated, which proved to be the motivational force for him to reenter the military and return to duty. Geist spoke about the bond developed between him and his WWII veteran father stalking and hunting on Colorado public lands.



Following the opening remarks, breakout sessions were held so Interior leadership could solicit feedback regarding veteran affairs and veteran accessibility on public lands.



###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-10-28T13:48:38-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Issues Dealing With Forest Management & Wildfire Prevention
Received: 2017-10-28T13:49:19-04:00

Forest mis-Management and the Resulting Wildfires - The Story Behind the Brian Head Fires in Utah:

This well put together video with Governor Herbert, multiple Utah legislators, and county commissioners describes the lack of forest management resulting in the most expensive and damaging fire in Utah's history.

This video states that fires like these are a result of radical environmental groups handcuffing the federal government and not allowing local communities to actively manage their forests. This administration is working hard to allow more active management of forest area in order to prevent fires like this from occurring.

Brian Head Fire Video:

<https://youtu.be/3I3oewMq6B0>

BLM regulations dealing with forest management below:

[https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID b651d90849fdf7f1caaa6588e8deaa36&mc true&tpl /ecfrbrowse/Title43/43CIIsubchapE.tpl](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=b651d90849fdf7f1caaa6588e8deaa36&mc=true&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title43/43CIIsubchapE.tpl)

Comments for reforming regulations on BLM land is available on the link below:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DOI-2017-0003-0003>

Comments for reforming regulations within the U.S Department of Agriculture including U.S Forest Service, comment on the link below:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/07/17/2017-14920/identifying-regulatory-reform-initiatives>

Jason Funes

Special Assistant

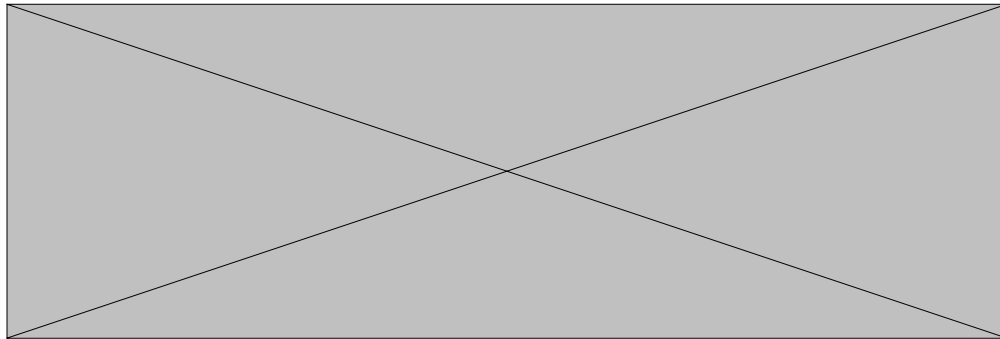
Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-07T14:54:45-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke announces Creation of the "Made in America" Recreation Advisory Committee
Received: 2017-11-07T14:55:36-05:00



Date: November 7, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke announces Creation of the "Made in America" Recreation Advisory Committee

WASHINGTON Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the establishment of the "Made in America" Recreation Advisory Committee. The Committee will advise the Secretary of the Interior on public-private partnerships across all public lands, with the goal of expanding access to and improving infrastructure on public lands and waterways.

"The spirit of American innovation and ingenuity is what built our country, and the Interior Department wants that same spirit and energy to resonate within the realm of outdoor recreation on our public lands," **said Secretary Zinke**. "By forming this committee, I look forward to hearing from the best and the brightest in our private sector on how to improve the public experience on our federal lands and waters by expanding access for all Americans. We already have thousands of private partners who operate on federal lands. Whether it's the iconic Jammers in Glacier National Park, the historic El Tovar lodge at the Grand Canyon, or the kayaks that you can rent on the Potomac River, American workers are at the heart of helping American families experience our great outdoors."

The members of the Committee will be selected for their diverse backgrounds and their experiences with the recreational industry. Prospective members will have knowledge utilizing public-private partnerships, providing recreational visitor experiences, developing and deploying infrastructure improvements, or a thorough understanding of recreational equipment.

"America's abundance and beauty is something to be both preserved and admired," **said**

Representative Dennis A. Ross. "As an RV enthusiast, I have been able to experience firsthand the glorious landscape of our great nation, and am thankful for those American entrepreneurs and innovators who think of new ways to experience what our country has to offer. I hope that with their guidance, more Americans will be able to witness the vast bounty of our land, from sea to shining sea."

"Northern Indiana is the RV Capital of the World, so Hoosiers know outdoor recreation plays a critical role in growing our nation's economy and creating American manufacturing jobs," **said Representative Jackie Walorski.** "I'm pleased Secretary Zinke is launching the "Made in America" Recreation Advisory Committee to help achieve the important goals of increasing access to our nation's public lands, boosting investment in outdoor tourism, and building more American-made products like RVs and boats."

The duties of the Committee are strictly advisory and will consist of, but not be limited to, providing recommendations including:

- Policies and programs that:
 - Expand and improve visitor infrastructure developed through public-private partnerships;
 - Implement sustainable operations embracing fair, efficient and convenient fee collection and strategic use of the collected fees;
 - Improve interpretation using technology;
 - Create better tools and/or opportunities for Americans to discover their lands and waters.

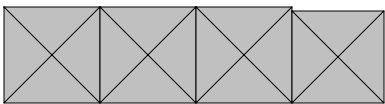
You may submit comments and/or nominations by any of the following methods:

- Mail or hand-carry nominations to Terry Austin, Associate Director for Business Services, National Park Service, Office of Business Services, 1849 C Street, NW, MS 2717, Washington, DC 20240; or email nominations to: teresa_austin@nps.gov

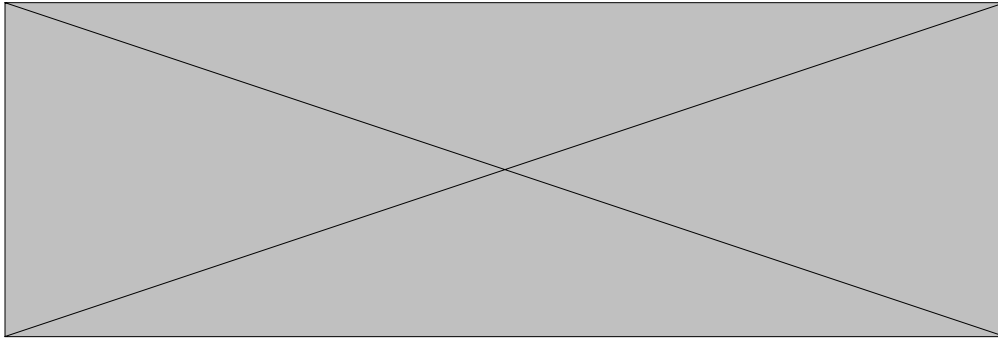
The Committee will meet approximately two times annually, and at such time as designated by the Designated Federal Officer. The Committee will terminate two years from the date the Charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

The Committee will not meet or take any action without a valid current Charter. The Committee is established by authority of the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) pursuant to 54 U.S.C. 100906, and is regulated by the FACA, as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-08T15:54:09-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Announces the Creation of the International Wildlife Conservation Council
Received: 2017-11-08T15:54:56-05:00



Date: November 8, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces the Creation of the International Wildlife Conservation Council

WASHINGTON Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the creation of the International Wildlife Conservation Council. The Council will provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior. It will focus on increased public awareness domestically regarding conservation, wildlife law enforcement, and economic benefits that result from U.S. citizens traveling abroad to hunt.

“Built on the backs of hunters and anglers, the American conservation model proves to be the example for all nations to follow for wildlife and habitat conservation,” **Secretary Zinke said.** “The conservation and long-term health of big game crosses international boundaries. This council will provide important insight into the ways that American sportsmen and women benefit international conservation from boosting economies and creating hundreds of jobs to enhancing wildlife conservation.”

The Council will advise the Secretary of the Interior on the benefits that international recreational hunting has on foreign wildlife and habitat conservation, anti-poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking programs, and other ways in which international hunting benefits human populations in these areas.

The duties of the Council will be solely advisory and will include, but not be limited to:

- Develop a plan for public engagement and education on the benefits of international hunting.
- Review and make recommendations for changes, when needed, on all Federal

programs, and/or regulations, to ensure support of hunting as:

- An enhancement to foreign wildlife conservation and survival;
- An effective tool to combat illegal trafficking and poaching;
- An economic engine and job-creating force for local communities.
- Develop strategies to benefit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's permit office in receiving timely country data and information so as to remove barriers that impact consulting with range states.
- Recommend removal of barriers to the importation into the United States of legally hunted wildlife.
- Ongoing review of import suspension/bans and provide recommendations that seek to resume the legal trade of those items, where appropriate.
- Review seizure and forfeiture actions/practices and provide recommendations to regulations that will lead to a reduction of unwarranted actions.
- Review the Endangered Species Act's foreign listed species and interaction with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, with the goal of eliminating regulatory duplications.
- Recommend streamlining/expedite process of import permits.

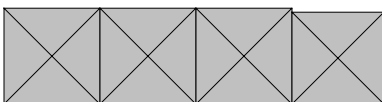
You may submit comments and/or nominations by any of the following methods:

- Mail or hand-carry nominations to Joshua Winchell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803; or Email nominations to: joshua_winchell@fws.gov; or submit them online.

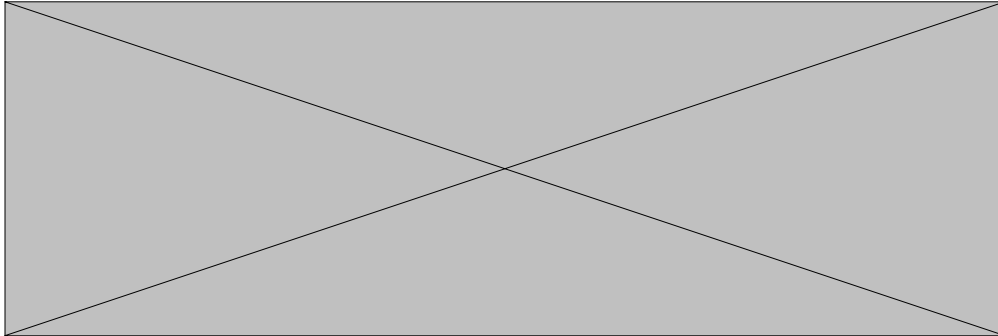
The Council will meet approximately two times annually, and at such other times as designated by the Designated Federal Officer. The Council will terminate 2 years from the date the Charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter. The Council is established in furtherance of 43 U.S.C. 1457, the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. §§ 742a-742j), and other Acts applicable to specific bureaus. This Council is regulated by the FACA, as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-09T14:24:04-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Continues Commitment to Hiring Military Veterans
Received: 2017-11-09T14:25:16-05:00



Date: November 9, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Continues Commitment to Hiring Military Veterans

Announces Addition of four Veterans to Interior

WASHINGTON Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced the addition of one United States Army veteran and three United States Navy veterans to the Interior Department. The four veterans join Zinke's Chief of Staff, several senior appointees, and more than 11,000 veterans who are career civil servants at the Department. The new hires include: U.S. Navy SEAL Captain Mike Argo as Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations in the Secretary's office; U.S. Navy SEAL Captain Rick May as a Senior Advisor to the Secretary managing and expanding the Department's recreation portfolio; Navy Master at Arms Zack Gambill as an Advisor at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and, U.S. Army Sergeant William "Billy" Dove as a Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. In one of their first official acts, Captains [May](#) and [Argo](#) joined [Secretary Zinke](#) in the November 8th [Reading of the Names](#) at the Vietnam War Memorial Wall, an event in which more than a thousand Americans read the name of every service member whose name is enshrined on The Wall.

"Veterans bring incredible strengths to any organization including strong leadership, organizational skills, work ethic, and love of country," **said Secretary Ryan Zinke.** "Rick, Mike, Zack and Billy will join more than 11,000 veterans already serving at Interior and will help lead important initiatives for outdoor recreation, veteran engagement, and the day to day operations of the Department."

Michael Argo is a decorated retired U.S. Navy SEAL Captain who served for three decades to include fighting in combat during Operation Just Cause in Panama to serving up to Operation

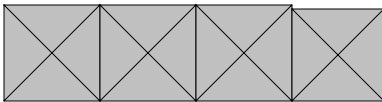
Enduring Freedom in Iraq. He served as Commander and Commanding Officer for four separate commands, worked three Joint commands, and deployed on numerous deployment around the world. More recently, Argo serve as a strategist and planner at the Office of Naval Intelligence in with the Kennedy Irregular Warfare Center and a short stint with the Department of Homeland Security at the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office. Argo played college football at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he earned a B.A. degree in Education. He also has as MS in Geography.

U.S. Navy SEAL Captain Rick May recently joined the Department of the Interior as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of the Interior. He will oversee recreational activities on public lands, with the aim of creating access and opportunities. May is a decorated veteran who served in the Iraq War. Since his departure from active duty in 2010, he has worked with wounded Veterans in various types of recreational activities, helping them to reintegrate back into mainstream America. May is a graduate of Sonoma State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and he also holds a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management.

Zack Gambill recently joined the Department of Interior as an Advisor in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Prior to joining the Interior Department, Gambill served in the United States Navy as a Master at Arms, serving with 6th Fleet HQ, and Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay, Cuba doing Detainee Operations. Afterwards he served then-Congressman Zinke as the Director of Veteran Affairs. He holds a bachelor's degree from Carroll College in his home town of Helena, Montana, in International Relations.

William "Billy" Dove recently joined the Department of the Interior as a Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management. Dove is an Army National Guard Sergeant who recently returned home from deployment in the Middle East with the 29th Infantry Division. Prior to joining Interior, Mr. Dove served as a legislative aide in then-Congressman Ryan Zinke's office. Dove is a native Montanan whose family has a background in law enforcement and ranching. He is a graduate of Montana State University in Bozeman.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-14T12:44:13-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Register for a D.C LNG Energy Event 11-17, Sage-Grouse Comment Period Ends 11-27, Feedback About "Success Stories" & Fwd: Zinke Applauds President Trump's Nomination of Tim Petty for Interior Department
Received: 2017-11-14T12:45:38-05:00
[Gas Initiative - Fact Sheet 11.7.17.pdf](#)

Esteemed Colleagues,
Below are 3 issues to review and a press release from today.

1) Attached is information about a "U.S Gas Infrastructure Exports Initiative" hosted by USTDA & U.S Chamber of Commerce Friday 11-17. DOI will also be participating in this event. Register to attend by contacting: gasinitiative@ustda.gov with your name, title, and organization.

2) Also below is the link with comment period expiring on 11-27:
"Notice of Intent To Amend Land Use Plans Regarding Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Prepare Associated Environmental Impact Statements or Environmental Assessments"

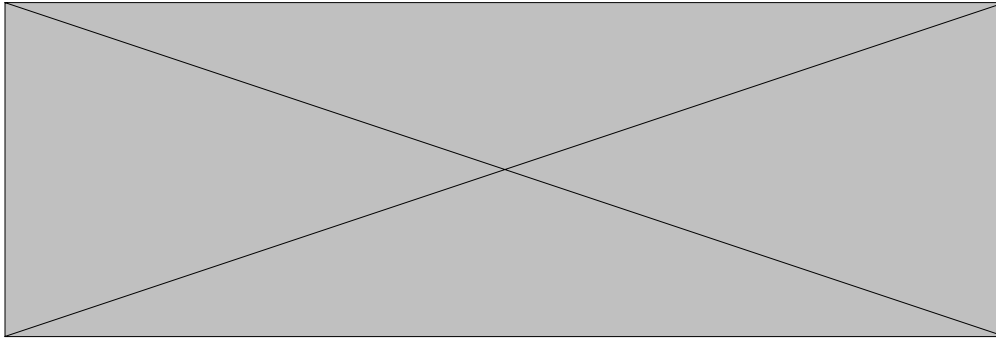
All comments are welcome, especially from *professional, recreational, and life experiences* regarding Sage-Grouse in your local area. There is no "one size fits all" solution to this, so local input is extremely valuable.

3) Your feedback is requested regarding "success stories" relating to infrastructure projects. Feel free to respond to this email responding to the following question:

1. Does your organization/members have any anecdotes/ examples of success stories on the following as they relate to infrastructure projects: accelerated infrastructure project delivery, time savings, cost savings, PPP's, etc. as related to regulatory and policy reforms? Please share!

Thank you in advance,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541



Date: November 14, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Applauds President Trump's Nomination of Tim Petty for Interior Department

Petty brings decades of scientific work, and diverse Alaska, California, and Idaho experience to Interior

WASHINGTON Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump announced the nomination of Dr. Timothy R. Petty to be the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the U.S. Department of the Interior. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke cheered the nomination. The Assistant Secretary for Water and Science is responsible for overseeing the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

Dr. Petty currently serves as Deputy Legislative Director and Legislative Assistant on issues of water, natural resources, environment, science, technology and telecommunications and space for U.S. Senator James E. Risch of Idaho, a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Previously, Dr. Petty served as Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science at DOI under President George W. Bush.

“Dr. Tim Petty brings years of quality service and experience to the team at the Department, and we could not be happier with the President’s choice for the position,” **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. “Dr. Petty has served as the Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science at the Department before, and we are excited to put him back to work for the American people in the Trump Administration.”

“I am grateful to President Trump and his administration for this opportunity to serve at the Department of Interior,” **said Dr. Tim Petty**. “Secretary Zinke has a clear vision for addressing our nation’s water and earth science challenges, and I would be humbled to work alongside him to advance responsible solutions.”

“Throughout Tim Petty’s eight years of service in my office, he has proven his background in and deep understanding of the complex nexus of water and science,” **said Senator James**

Risch. “I can’t imagine a more qualified individual than Tim to support the Secretary of the Interior as Assistant Secretary for Water & Science. I don’t feel my office is losing his incredible talent, rather our country is gaining it and will be exceptionally served under his leadership.”

“As a member of Senator Risch’s staff, Dr. Petty has intimate knowledge of Idaho’s water rights and the legal status of state control over water within our borders,” **said Senator Mike Crapo.** “Idahoans, and water users in general, are getting the right nominee for Interior in Dr. Petty.”

“I applaud Secretary Zinke on his nomination of Tim Petty for Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at DOI,” **said Congressman Mike Simpson.** “There is no doubt in my mind that Tim’s experience at DOI and in Congress will serve the agency well. It is also great for Idaho that someone with such direct knowledge of the issues in our state will be leading the way on solutions. I look forward to working with Tim and congratulate him on his nomination.”

“I am extremely pleased to hear that Tim Petty was tapped by the current administration to serve as Assistant Secretary for Water and Science for the Department of the Interior,” **said Idaho Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter.** “Tim has a deep understanding of western water and environmental issues and will be a valuable resource for the Department and the State of Idaho.”

“I strongly support Dr. Tim Petty’s nomination to be Assistant Secretary for Water and Science,” **said former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne.** “When I was Secretary of the Interior, I worked with him. Tim is thoughtful. He listens to all viewpoints. He is a problem solver. He has experience in working on issues related to water and science. These skills are essential for the policy leader who will oversee the US. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Reclamation.”

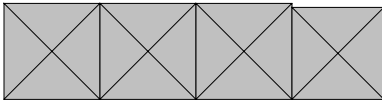
“Dr. Petty is an exceptionally qualified individual that brings a critical combination of scientific understanding and on the ground experience to water management,” **said Ian Lyle, the Executive Vice President of the National Water Resources Association.** “His experience in water began on an Indiana farm and ranged to federal service in the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Senate. He is an unflappable professional that treats every point of view fairly. Tim’s perspective, demeanor and leadership will be vital as the nation works to meet the challenges facing agricultural and municipal water supply.”

“Dr. Petty has demonstrated a passion for water resources from an early age. He understands that maintaining a safe and plentiful water supply is critical to the health and prosperity of our nation,” **said Dr. William Schnabel, the Director of Institute of Northern Engineering at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.** “He appreciates the power contained within our flowing waters - a power that can be constructive when harnessed for energy, or destructive when unleashed during times of flood. Moreover, he recognizes that utilizing our ever-growing capacities for science, technology, and engineering is the key to managing our nation's water supply now and in the future. Dr. Petty's experience provides him with a unique blend of administrative acumen and well-grounded scientific insight. This experience, combined with his unassailable integrity, will serve Dr. Petty well as our new DOI Assistant Secretary for Water & Science.”

“We are thrilled to learn of Dr. Petty’s nomination as Assistant Secretary for Water and Science,” **said Paul Arrington, the Executive Director and General Counsel of the Idaho Water Users Association.** “As a Congressional Staffer focusing on water issues in the office of Senator Risch (ID), we had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Petty on resource issues. His expertise, combined with his ability to understand different sides of difficult issues, make him a natural choice for this position.”

Dr. Petty earned a Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks; an M.S. from University of Maryland University College; and a B.S. from Purdue University (Indiana). Prior to his current Senate service, Dr. Petty worked for U.S. Senators Connie Mack of Florida and Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania. In addition, Dr. Petty worked in California and Indiana as a geologist and hydrogeologist.

###





U.S. GAS INFRASTRUCTURE EXPORTS INITIATIVE

*On Friday, November 17, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency and U.S. industry will launch the **U.S. Gas Infrastructure Exports Initiative**, to connect American companies to export opportunities across the gas value chain in emerging economies. As U.S. LNG export terminals are coming online, USTDA is expanding its partnership with the American gas industry to facilitate LNG exports through the development of gas-related infrastructure in key LNG receiving countries.*

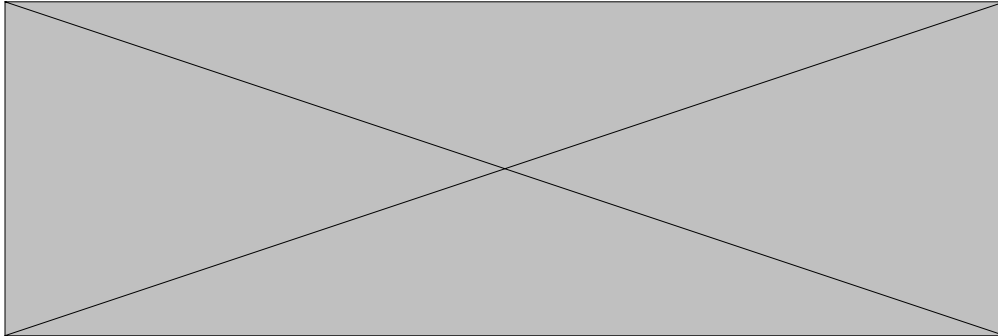
Launch Event:

- **What:** USTDA, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute, LNG Allies, and the 27th World Gas Conference (WGC 2018) will host a launch event for U.S. industry partners, USG agencies, foreign embassy personnel, and press
- **Date & Time:** November 17, 2017 at 8:30am-12:00 pm. Agenda to follow.
- **Location:** U.S. Chamber of Commerce – Hall of Flags, 1615 H Street NW, Washington, DC
- **Agenda:**
 - **USTDA Call for Gas Sector Project Proposals:**
USTDA will announce a call for gas-related project proposals for U.S. companies that have identified project sponsors in the developing and middle-income countries
 - **Announcement of Upcoming Reverse Trade Missions:**
USTDA will be hosting foreign decision-makers on visits to meet with U.S. industry
 - Worldwide RTMs attending the 27th World Gas Conference (June 25-29, 2018)
 - Senegal Gas RTM (Spring 2018)
 - China LNG RTMs (January 2018 and Spring 2018)
 - **Panel Discussions:** Panel discussions with U.S. industry, U.S. government representative, and foreign embassy personnel
- **To register:** Please contact gasinitiative@ustda.gov with your name, title, and organization. **Registration is required for attendance.**

About USTDA's Work in the Gas Sector:

USTDA links U.S. businesses to export opportunities by funding project preparation and partnership building activities that develop sustainable infrastructure and foster economic growth in partner countries. USTDA has funded **349 gas sector projects** across **75 countries**, facilitating over **\$7 billion in U.S. exports**.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-15T17:00:18-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Nonprofit Sought to Coordinate U.S.A.'s 250th Anniversary Commemoration
Received: 2017-11-15T17:00:58-05:00



Date: November 15, 2017
Contact: newsmedia@nps.gov
Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Nonprofit Sought to Coordinate U.S.A.'s 250th Anniversary Commemoration

WASHINGTON Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior issued a Request for Proposal seeking a nonprofit partner to serve as secretariat and administrator of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission. The commission was established by Congress last year, to coordinate and facilitate activities in 2026, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. The nonprofit will raise funds for the commission's work, prepare reports required by Congress, and provide administrative and financial support to the commission.

The commission, acting through the secretariat, will coordinate observances and activities related to the semiquincentennial, including special events, scholarly works, artistic displays, and historical exhibits. They will consult and cooperate with appropriate Federal agencies, State and local public bodies, learned societies, and historical, patriotic, philanthropic, civic, professional, and related organizations.

The 33-member commission is comprised of eight members of Congress, 16 private citizens, and nine non-voting ex officio federal officials. The commission is required by law to submit a comprehensive report to the president no later than July 22, 2018, that includes the specific recommendations for the commemoration of the 250th anniversary and related events.

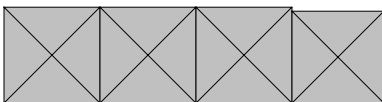
The selected nonprofit organization, acting as secretariat for the commission, will perform duties which include:

- Serving as the commission's point of contact for all State, local, international and private sector initiatives regarding the Semiquincentennial of the founding of the United States, with the purpose of coordinating and facilitating all fitting and proper activities honoring the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States.
- Raising all funds required for the commission's work. All expenditures of the commission shall be made solely from these donated funds.
- Providing the commission financial and administrative services, including services related to budgeting, accounting and financial reporting, personnel, and procurement. Payments to provide these services shall be made in advance, or by reimbursement, from funds of the commission in such amounts as may be agreed on by the chairperson of the commission and the secretariat of the commission.
- Housing the administrative offices of the commission. The administrative offices must be located in Washington, DC.
- Organizing meetings for the commission. The Act states that all meetings shall be convened at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Preparing an annual report detailing the commission's activities, including an accounting of funds received and expended during the year covered by the report. The commission must submit this report once each year during the period beginning July 22, 2016 and ending on December 31, 2027.

Further information regarding this opportunity and bid instructions are contained in the request for proposal informational document, available [here](#). Questions about this request for proposal can be submitted to NPS_BPC@nps.gov through November 28, 2017. NPS will provide responses to the submitted questions by December 1, 2017, and all proposals are due by December 29, 2017.

A panel will evaluate the proposals and provide a recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior, who will make the final selection.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-15T17:44:34-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Information About An Upcoming Announcement
Received: 2017-11-15T17:45:16-05:00
[Monumental Growth - NM Review.pdf](#)
[Presidential Authority to Revoke or Reduce NM Designations.pdf](#)
[Rein In The Antiquities Act.pdf](#)
[American Antiquities Act of 1906.pdf](#)

Esteemed Colleagues,

Attached is a few short fact sheets, the 1 page antiquities act, and a research paper regarding NM's. This review is about limiting the power of the executive branch and abuse of the antiquities act. The big lie has been that we are selling public lands and limiting access to these areas, which couldn't be farther from the truth.

The Secretary is adamantly opposed to the sale or transfer of public lands, and under the Antiquities Act, the NM's are already designated on federal land. Any NM's suggested for a change in size, that land would remain federally owned and managed by one of the land management agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, U.S Forest Service, U.S Fish and Wildlife Services, and the National Park Services.

Increasing access and multiple use to these land areas is the primary objective to suggestions being made on the individual NM's. Also the issues of concern to local constituents neighboring these NM's are unique and very different depending on the site.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me any time.

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

MONUMENTAL GROWTH:

Expansive National Monuments and the Policy Solution

Matthew Anderson and Ian Nemelka

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Since the Antiquities Act was passed in 1906, 16 presidents have used executive authority to create or enlarge national monuments. These presidential actions have placed parcels of less than an acre to over 280 million acres under national monument status. Although there have been fluctuations in the size of these creations and expansions over the past 111 years, the last 40 years have seen a significant hike in the amounts of land and water being designated by presidents of both parties. The modern practice of designating expansive national monuments does not align with the original intent of the Antiquities Act; it actually puts antiquities at increased risk of destruction and desecration. National monument designations also come with high opportunity costs to local economies through the restrictions they place on multiple-use management policies. The solution to these executive abuses is to reform the Antiquities Act to align with the American principles of separation of powers, checks and balances, and open public debate.

Each action by Obama placed an average of 16,281,738 acres under national monument status – more than 191 times larger than the average of those designated under the Roosevelt administration. This trend is not exclusive to the Roosevelt-Obama comparison. Comparing the first eight administrations that utilized the Antiquities Act with the most recent eight, average acquisitions have been 89 times bigger since President Dwight D. Eisenhower took office (see Figure 2).

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF EXPANSIVE NATIONAL MONUMENTS?

1. Expansive monuments violate the original intent of the Antiquities Act

The Antiquities Act states that presidential designations must be restricted to “the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.”² This language reflects the legislative history of the Act wherein Congress proposed to limit presidential designations to no more than 640 acres.³ While ultimately the 640-acre restriction was not included, it is apparent that the original intent of the act was to confine national monuments to specific historic, cultural and scientific objects. Today’s typical monument designation, on the other hand, combines these objects with hundreds of thousands – or even millions – of additional acres. These additions are often justified for reasons of climate change, environmental protection and outdoor recreation, none of which are included in the language of the Antiquities Act.

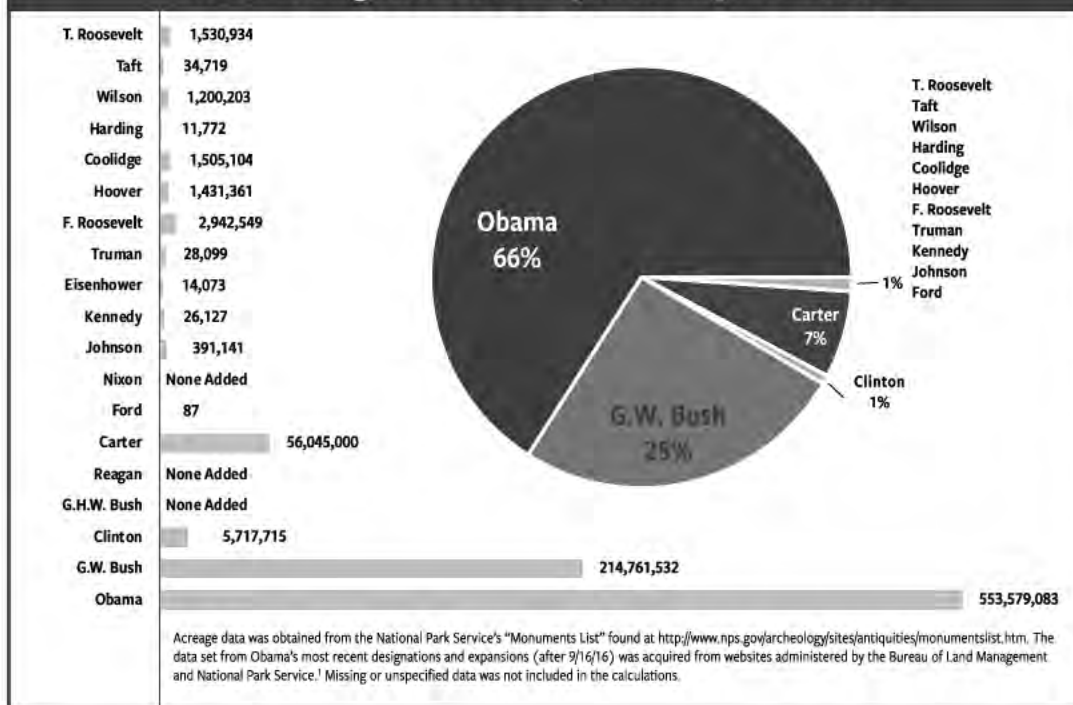
2. Expansive monuments put antiquities at increased risk

Large monuments can put our national treasures at an increased risk of desecration and destruction. The publicity of a national monument designation brings with it increased visitation to the area. This imposes

more demand on federal managers to protect the environment, maintain infrastructure and safeguard historic and cultural sites. With a combined deferred maintenance backlog exceeding \$17 billion, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service are strapped for cash – lacking sufficient resources to adequately protect national monuments under their supervision.⁴ Large national monuments exacerbate this issue as they have higher personnel and infrastructure needs than smaller designations do.

Figure 1

Acres Designated and Expanded by Presidents



WHAT DO THE DATA SAY?

According to data from the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management, the amount of acreage placed under national monument status has dramatically increased over time (see Figure 1). Theodore Roosevelt, the first president to utilize the Antiquities Act, designated 18 national monuments for a total of 1,530,934 acres – an average of 85,052 acres per designation. President Barack Obama designated or expanded national monuments 34 times, for a total of 553,579,083 acres.

3. Expansive monuments have unnecessarily high opportunity costs

National monuments can provide some economic benefit to communities through increased tourism. However, these benefits can come with trade-offs when monuments are expansive: restricting multiple-use management policies that promise stronger, more diversified economies. These economic opportunity costs can be especially crippling when expansive designations block hundreds of thousands of acres from economic activities like grazing,⁵ timber harvesting, commercial fishing, mineral extraction⁶ and alternative forms of outdoor recreation. Small national monuments often avoid such opportunity costs because their harm to other economic activities is limited by their size. Tourism can generate net economic benefits over the long term as part of a multiple-use management strategy, but it can weaken economic resilience when it is the sole economic driver.

Figure 1

President	Average Designation/ Expansion (in acres)
T. Roosevelt	85,052
Taft	3,156
Wilson	75,013
Harding	1,177
Coolidge	83,617
Hoover	102,240
F. Roosevelt	101,467
Truman	2,810
Eisenhower	1,083
Kennedy	4,389
Johnson	78,228
Ford	43
Carter	3,296,765
Clinton	259,896
G.W. Bush	30,680,219
Obama	16,281,738

Acres data was obtained from the National Park Service's "Monuments List" found at <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/antiquities/monumentslist.htm>. The data set from Obama's most recent designations and expansions (after 9/6/16) was acquired from websites administered by the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service. Missing or unspecified data was not included in the calculations.

WHAT IS THE POLICY SOLUTION?

Presidents should retain the power to designate national monuments with few barriers when the area in question is a small site in immediate danger of desecration or destruction. However, national monument

designations and expansions larger than a few hundred acres should require approval by Congress and by the legislature and governor of the impacted state. Additionally, a board of local stakeholders and residents should approve management plans for large national monuments. This solution ensures an open dialogue and meaningful public input on national monuments – this is important because monuments are likely to create unintended consequences for antiquities and local economies. It also establishes reasonable checks on unilateral executive power under the Antiquities Act while still allowing presidents the ability to protect national treasures that are genuinely threatened. This reform will protect the people against abuses from political and ideological extremes, preserve the original intent of the law, safeguard antiquities, and secure the American Dream for communities impacted by national monument designations and expansions.

SOURCES

1 "Cascade Siskiyou National Monument Expansion," Bureau of Land Management: Department of the Interior. https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/documents/files/csnmfactsheet_0.pdf (accessed June 4, 2017). "Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument," National Park Service: Department of the Interior. <https://www.nps.gov/bicr/faqs.htm> (accessed June 4, 2017). "The Reconstruction Era National Monument," National Park Service: Department of the Interior. <https://www.nps.gov/reer/learn/proclamation.htm> (accessed June 4, 2017). "The Freedom Riders National Monument," National Park Service: Department of the Interior. <https://www.nps.gov/frri/learn/proclamation.htm> (accessed June 6, 2017). "Gold Butte National Monument," Bureau of Land Management: Department of the Interior. <https://www.blm.gov/gold-butte> (accessed June 8, 2017). "Bear Ears National Monument," Bureau of Land Management: Department of the Interior. https://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/bear_ears_fact_sheet.pdf (accessed July 1, 2017).

2 The Antiquities Act, 16 U.S.C. 431-433

3 Carol Hardy Vincent, "National Monument and the Antiquities Act," Congressional Research Service, September 7, 2016. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41330.pdf>

4 Carol Vincent, "Deferred Maintenance of Federal Land Management Agencies: FY2007 FY2016 Estimates and Issues," Congressional Research Service, April 25, 2017. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R43997.pdf>

5 Gil Miller and Kevin Heaton, "Livestock Grazing on the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument: Its Importance to the Local Economy," Utah State University Extension, September 2015. http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/extension_curall/765

6 Randy Simmons, Ryan Yonk, Kayla Dawn Harris and Megan Hansen, "Energy in National Monuments," Strata Policy (August 2013).



Copyright © 2017 Sutherland Institute. All rights reserved. The Coalition for Self Government in the West (CSGW) is a project of Sutherland Institute. More information is available at CSGW's website, sutherlandinstitute.org/selfgov.

15 West South Temple, Suite 200 | Salt Lake City, UT 84101
801.355.1272 | sutherlandinstitute.org

American Antiquities Act of 1906

16 USC 431-433

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who shall appropriate, excavate, injure, or destroy any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of antiquity, situated on lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States, without the permission of the Secretary of the Department of the Government having jurisdiction over the lands on which said antiquities are situated, shall, upon conviction, be fined in a sum of not more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned for a period of not more than ninety days, or shall suffer both fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

Sec. 2. That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected: Provided, That when such objects are situated upon a tract covered by a bona fied unperfected claim or held in private ownership, the tract, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the proper care and management of the object, may be relinquished to the Government, and the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to accept the relinquishment of such tracts in behalf of the Government of the United States.

Sec. 3. That permits for the examination of ruins, the excavation of archaeological sites, and the gathering of objects of antiquity upon the lands under their respective jurisdictions may be granted by the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and War to institutions which they may deem properly qualified to conduct such examination, excavation, or gathering, subject to such rules and regulation as they may prescribe: Provided, That the examinations, excavations, and gatherings are undertaken for the benefit of reputable museums, universities, colleges, or other recognized scientific or educational institutions, with a view to increasing the knowledge of such objects, and that the gatherings shall be made for permanent preservation in public museums.

Sec. 4. That the Secretaries of the Departments aforesaid shall make and publish from time to time uniform rules and regulations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Approved, June 8, 1906



It's Time to Rein In The Antiquities Act

The Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the President of the United States the authority – through a presidential proclamation – to create national monuments on public lands. To date, more than 80 natural areas have been set aside as park or preservation lands, including nearly 137 million acres of public lands.

The Reality for Ranchers

Although some of these designations are appropriate, many times, the President will create national monuments on millions of acres of land at a time, significantly disrupting the economies of local communities that reside on or are adjacent to those lands. The livestock industry is consistently impacted when public land that has been used for ranching for generations is taken away.

When land is designated as a national monument, new regulations greatly limit multiple uses – including livestock grazing – or create restrictions on access and range-improvement maintenance. These restrictions are often so costly that ranchers can no longer afford to use their public land allotments. When ranchers lose their allotments, the local economy suffers – incomes plummet, businesses close and schools shutter.

Reining in the Antiquities Act

Due to past controversy, the Presidential powers under the Antiquities Act have been limited in two states. The first after the Jackson Hole National Monument designation in 1943, and again after President Carter created 56 million acres of national monuments in Alaska.



The Antiquities Act in Action

In 1996, President Clinton designated the 1.9-million acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah. This designation is equivalent to a one-and-a-half mile wide tract of land stretching from San Francisco to New York City.

As a result:

- Four grazing allotments have closed entirely
- Portions of four additional grazing allotments have been closed
- Since the creation of the monument, middle and high school enrollment has dropped as much as 67 percent in some counties, leading to unsustainable school districts
- In 2011, the per-capita income in counties affected by the designation of a monument was nearly \$2,000 less than comparable counties

The Public Lands Council now urges Members of Congress to block efforts to create new national monument space in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Oregon and protect the livestock grazing industry.

Presidential Authority to Revoke or Reduce National Monument Designations

Todd Gaziano & John Yoo*

In his first year in office, President Donald Trump has taken several controversial actions in the area of environmental law. Several of these, such as U.S. termination of the Paris Accords on climate change and the withdrawal of regulations on power generation, have relied on claims of presidential power. Another controversial environmental law question, and the subject of this essay, is whether Presidents can reverse or narrow the designation of landmarks as national monuments.

President Trump has ordered the administration to reconsider past monument designations for purposes of reversing the decisions of past presidents or narrowing their scope. On June 10, 2017, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's issued an interim recommendation to significantly reduce the size of Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, which President Barack Obama designated shortly before leaving office.¹ Other national monuments may follow. This Essay supports the legal authority of the executive branch to undertake such action.²

The Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the president the power to designate national monuments in order to protect historic landmarks and structures. Pursuant to this power, a president has the corresponding power to revoke prior national monument designations. Although there is no controlling judicial authority on this question, the text of the act and historical practice confirm that the Chief Executive can reduce the size of prior designations that cover vast areas of land and ocean habitat, though his power of reduction may in some instances be related to his implicit power of revocation.

Many scholars, however, take a different view. In a recent essay, for example, prominent U.S. environmental law scholars argued that a President cannot reverse or narrow the designation of an earlier national monument.³ More than 120 law professors recently signed a letter making the same argument.⁴ Their work places central reliance on a 1938 opinion by U.S. Attorney General Homer Cummings, which concluded that the statutory power granted to the president to create national monuments does not include the power of revocation. The opinion has been cited a few times in government documents, including by the solicitor of the Interior Department in 1947 (although for a different proposition) and in legal commentary, but the courts have never relied on it. We think this opinion (and the subsequent work which has relied upon it) is poorly reasoned; misconstrued a prior opinion, which came to the opposite result; and is inconsistent

* John Yoo is Emanuel S. Heller Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley and a Visiting Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. Todd Gaziano is the Executive Director of the Pacific Legal Foundation's DC Center and its Senior Fellow in Constitutional Law. They thank Jonathan Wood for his substantial contribution on the marine monument discussion, and to Leah Hamlin for her excellent research assistance with this essay.

¹ Memorandum to the President from Ryan K. Zinke, Interim Report Pursuant to Executive Order 13,792 (June 10, 2017), <https://www.scribd.com/document/351066813/Interim-Report-EO-13792>.

² In addition, one of us helped write comments for the Pacific Legal Foundation recommending such action by the President regarding Bears Ears. See Monument Review Comments of Jeffery McCoy, Todd Gaziano & Jonathan Wood, Pacific Legal Foundation to the U.S. Dept. of the Interior, MS-1530 (May 25, 2017), <http://blog.pacificlegal.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/PLF-Comments-on-Bears-Ears-May-25-2017.pdf>.

³ See Mark Squillace, Eric Biber, Nicholas Bryner, & Sean Hecht, President's Lack the Authority to Abolish or Diminish National Monuments, 103 Va. L. Rev. Online 55 (2017).

⁴ <http://legal-planet.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/national-monuments-comment-letter-from-law-professors-as-filed.pdf>

with constitutional, statutory, and case law governing the president's exercise of analogous grants of power.

Our analysis explains why a general discretionary revocation power must exist. Apart from a power to revoke monuments that were lawfully designated, the president has the constitutional power to declare invalid prior monuments if they were illegal from their inception. In the first instance, there is no reason why a president should give effect to an illegal act of his predecessor pending a judicial ruling. Beyond this, the president may also have a limited power to revoke monument designations based on earlier factual error or changed circumstances, even if he does not possess a general discretionary revocation power.

Almost all commentators concede that some boundary adjustments can be made to monument designations, and many have been made over the years. In 2005, the Supreme Court implicitly recognized that such adjustments can be made. The only serious question is over their scope. No court has ruled on this question. Some commenters claim this is because no president has attempted to significantly reduce the size of an existing monument, but that is simply inaccurate. In the act's early years alone, some monuments were reduced by half or more.

Regardless of past practice, arguments that limit the president's authority to significantly reduce prior designations are largely conclusory and based on the erroneous premise that the president lacks authority to revoke monuments or driven by a selective reading of the act's purpose rather than its text. We believe a president's discretion to change monument boundaries is broad, but even if that is not so, his power to significantly change monument boundaries is at its height if the original designation was unreasonably large under the facts as they existed then or based on changed circumstances.

Part I of this Essay describes the factual, legal, and historical background to the current controversy over national monuments and the scope of the Antiquities Act. We also critique the views of scholars who believe only Congress can overturn the designation of a national monument. Part II sets out the affirmative case for a presidential power to reverse previous designations of national monuments under the Antiquities Act. We argue that under traditional principles of constitutional, legislative, and administrative law, the authority to execute a discretionary power includes the authority to reverse it. No President (nor any Congress or Supreme Court) can permanently bind his or her successors in their exercise of the executive power. Part III explains that even if one were to disagree with Part II's broad argument, the Antiquities Act by its own terms contains an ongoing authority to reverse a monument designation. Part IV shows that even if the President does not enjoy a constitutional or statutory power to repeal a monument, he or she still has the delegated authority to reduce and alter the size of a monument to ensure that it is the smallest size necessary. Rather than broadly declaring millions of acres off limits, Presidents can make their national monuments enduring by seeking a more consensual process involving Congress, state officials, and local stakeholders.

I. The Controversy over National Monuments and the Antiquities Act

As he left the Oval Office, President Obama tried to exempt his environmental policies from the effects of the November 2016 elections. Five days before Christmas, the White House announced the withdrawal of millions of acres of Atlantic and Arctic territory from petroleum development. Obama continued his midnight orders by proclaiming 1.35 million acres in Utah and 300,000 acres in Nevada to be new national monuments. White House officials claimed that

both types of actions were “permanent” because there was no express authority to reverse them. But that gets the constitutional principles and legal presumptions exactly backwards. All the ex-president will prove is the fleeting nature of executive power.

These actions, like many others taken by the Obama administration, will remain vulnerable to reversal by President Donald Trump. In our constitutional system, no policy can long endure without the cooperation of both the executive and legislative branches. Under Article I of the Constitution, only Congress can enact domestic statutes with any degree of permanence. And because of the Constitution’s separation of powers, no policy will survive for long without securing and retaining a consensus well beyond a simple majority. Our nation’s most enduring policies—antitrust, Social Security, and civil rights—emerged as the product of compromise and deliberation between the political parties.

President Obama’s refusal to compromise with his political opponents will guarantee that his achievements will have all the lasting significance of Shelley’s *King Ozymandias*.⁵ His inability to win much bipartisan support for his policies renders them more susceptible to repeal measures. But his unilateral actions based on his “pen and phone” have become especially vulnerable. The coming fight over public lands shows, in microcosm, the constitutional dynamics that can render presidential power in the domestic sphere so hollow.

A. Historical and Legal Background of the Antiquities Act

In 1872, Yellowstone National Park was designated the United States’ first national park, withdrawing two million acres of federal land for preservation and public enjoyment.⁶ Since the 1890s, however, Congress and the Executive frequently argued about the proper authority to withdraw other federal lands from general use. Different laws were used to create or authorize national forests and other national preservation designations. It wasn’t until 1916 that Congress created the Act to Establish the National Park Service to help manage and regularize the creation of national parks, but even now, each national park must be created by an Act of Congress.

Almost one quarter of the units that comprise the National Park System can trace their origins to the Antiquities Act of 1906,⁷ but the creation of large scenic “parks” was not the Antiquities Act’s purpose and is a violation of the spirit if not the letter of the Act. The original motive for the Antiquities Act was to protect ancient and prehistoric American Indian archeological sites on federal lands in the southwest from looting. The Antiquities Act was passed during the same month (June 1906) as the act creating Mesa Verde National Park, and the problems that arose in protecting the Mesa Verde ruins inform the Antiquities Act’s central focus.⁸

⁵ Percy Shelley’s 1818 poem “Ozymandias” is about the ruins of an ancient kingdom, whose stern but long-dead ruler declared it would last forever and make men tremble in despair. All that remains in modern times is a wrecked statue of the king, his boastful claim on its pedestal, and sand all around. For the text and history of the poem, see *Economist*, “The Real Ozymandias: King of Kings,” December 18, 2013,

<http://www.economist.com/news/christmas-specials/21591740-enthusiasms-rivalries-fads-and-fashions-lie-behind-shelleys-best-known>. Poetry and rulers vainly asserting the permanence of their works, however, are more timeless.

⁶ “National Park System Timeline,” *National Park Service History*, (National Park Service),

https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/hisnps/npshistory/timeline_annotated.htm.

⁷ “National Park System Timeline,” *supra* note 2.

⁸ It is relevant to later arguments over the scope of the Antiquities Act that Congress enacted a statutorily fixed Mesa Verde National Park by separate statute—and did not leave that to the Executive to do so. Among other things, this is further evidence that Congress considered the authority in the Antiquities Act to protect archeological sites from

In a report to the secretary of the interior, Smithsonian Institution archeologist Jesse Walter Fewkes described vandalism at Mesa Verde's Cliff Palace:

Parties of "curio seekers" camped on the ruin for several winters, and it is reported that many hundred specimens there have been carried down the mesa and sold to private individuals. Some of these objects are now in museums, but many are forever lost to science. In order to secure this valuable archaeological material, walls were broken down . . . often simply to let light into the darker rooms; floors were invariably opened and buried kivas mutilated. To facilitate this work and get rid of the dust, great openings were broken through the five walls which form the front of the ruin. Beams were used for firewood to so great an extent that not a single roof now remains. This work of destruction, added to that resulting from erosion due to rain, left Cliff Palace in a sad condition.⁹

The legislative history of the Antiquities Act on the Department of Interior website provides additional historical detail,¹⁰ but the act's text confirms that its primary purpose was to "preserve the works of man."¹¹ Section 1 of the original act made it a crime to "appropriate, excavate, injure, or destroy any historic or prehistoric object of antiquity" on federal land without permission. Section 3 provided for permits for the examination of "ruins, the excavation of archeological sites, and the gathering of object of antiquity upon" federal land. Section 4 provided the authority to the relevant department secretaries who managed federal land to issue uniform regulations to carry out the act's provisions. Section 2, which allows for the designation of national monuments and the reservation of such federal land as is necessary to protect the objects at issue, also focuses primarily on "historic and prehistoric *structures*, and other *objects* of historic or scientific interest" (emphasis added).

The addition of only two words, "historic landmarks," in that sequence in Section 2 (see below) denotes something broader than preserving human artifacts. In prior proposals to protect antiquities, the Department of Interior had sought authority for scenic monuments and additional national parks, but Congress repeatedly rejected that authority.¹² Congress was annoyed by large forest designations and guarded its authority over western lands jealously.¹³

As discussed above, Section 2 of the Antiquities Act not only allows protection for small areas around human archeological sites but also authorizes the president:

in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national

looting as distinct from creating a national park from lands that surround such archeological sites or historical landmarks.

⁹ U.S. Dept. of Interior, Rept. to Secretary of the Interior for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1909, 486-87.

¹⁰ Ronald F. Lee, "The Antiquities Act, 1900-1906," in *The Story of the Antiquities Act* (National Park Service, March 15, 2016), https://www.nps.gov/archeology/pubs/lee/Lee_CH6.htm.

¹¹ See Pub. L. 59-209, 34 Stat. 225 (June 8, 1906), now codified at 54 U.S.C. §§ 320301-03.

¹² See Lee, "The Antiquities Act, 1900-1906," discussing Congress' refusal in the period before the Antiquities Act to pass five bills that sought to grant the secretary of the interior broad authority for designating national parks.

¹³ *Ibid.* ("The reluctance of the members of the Public Lands Committee, most of them western public lands states, to grant general authority to the Executive Branch to create new national parks is understandable in the light of their past experience with the timber reservations act of 1891.")

monuments, and may reserve as part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and maintenance of the objects to be protected.

There are three steps to reserving and protecting land under the Antiquities Act. First, the monument must be declared for a protective purpose upon lands owned or controlled by the United States. Second, a reservation of certain parcels of land that constitute a “part thereof” may be made, but such parcels of land may not exceed what is necessary to protect the “objects” at issue. Third, the president may specify certain restrictions or other protections that apply to the reserved land, or the relevant department secretary who has responsibility to manage the monument may issue regulations consistent with such protections.¹⁴

Although the act’s final language covered more than antiquities, and there is evidence that small scenic landmarks were contemplated, the statute’s title, drafting history, and historical context is still valuable to presidents who want to follow the text and spirit of the original law. For example, earlier and contemporaneous bills for the same purpose limited monument designation to 320 or 640 acres.¹⁵ The final bill replaced that with the (now seemingly open-ended) requirement that such monuments “shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected,” but that was added to provide flexibility for special situations and not to allow a million-acre designation. Such background also helps illuminate earlier presidential abuses, whether such abuses rise to the level of a statutory violation or are just garden-variety political acts that offend individual due process rights and separation of powers principles.

Besides Mesa Verde National Park, only a handful of other national parks existed in 1906. That is one reason why Congress did not need to create the National Park Service to manage them until 1916. The Grand Canyon, for example, was not a national park in 1906 and was open to mining claims and other federal program leases.

President Theodore Roosevelt initially used his new Antiquities Act authority to protect some relatively small landmarks (e.g., Devils Tower) and Native American ruins (e.g., El Morro and Montezuma Castle), but his abuses were not long in coming. In 1908, he proclaimed the Grand Canyon National Monument, reserving more than 808,000 acres for its protection. Although later Congresses converted some national monuments covering large geological formations into national parks, including the Grand Canyon National Park in 1919, the Congress that enacted the Antiquities Act did not intend monuments of that size to be established by presidential designation.

¹⁴ Although the National Park Service currently manages most existing national monuments, other units of the Department of Interior (the Bureau of Land Management and the US Fish and Wildlife Service) manage or comanage others. See list of national monuments and their corresponding management agencies at National Parks Conservation Association, “Monuments Protected Under the Antiquities Act,” January 13, 2017, <https://www.npca.org/resources/2658-monuments-protected-under-the-antiquities-act#sm.00000py0rl7d8qfp5wxkeb7uvkeow>. The original act contemplated that the Departments of Agriculture and Defense (then War) might also manage or relinquish land for national monuments and specified that the secretaries of interior, agriculture, and war had authority to jointly issue uniform regulations for managing national monuments. In recent decades, presidents have given responsibility to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (in the Department of Commerce) to manage or comanage marine monuments, and the US Forest Service (in the Department of Agriculture) manages or comanages certain other recent monuments.

¹⁵ See Lee, “The Antiquities Act, 1900–1906.”

Nevertheless, the Supreme Court in 1920 relied on the validity of the 1908 reservation that created the Grand Canyon National Monument in rejecting a private mining claim in *Cameron v. United States*.¹⁶ There is no indication that the size of the original monument designation was at issue, perhaps because Congress had recently converted the monument into a national park by statute. Yet the Supreme Court also has considered issues relating to two other large monuments or former monuments.¹⁷ While the original monuments' sizes were not challenged in any of these cases, it is not clear whether the courts will invalidate large geological monument designations due to their size alone.¹⁸

Even so, the Antiquities Act's primary motivation and historical context is still legally relevant to refute the arguments of those who would limit a president's revocation power based on a selective and misleading statement about its purpose. Moreover, other interpretive questions remain open, such as the meaning of the textual requirement that the lands being reserved under the monument designations are "owned or controlled" by the United States.

Three of the most important Indian lands where prehistoric artifacts might be looted were not even states in 1906; Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma were then federal territories. Hawaii was only recently annexed and organized as a territory, and Alaska was still a sparsely settled American "district" after the gold rushes of the 1890s—not yet an official federal territory. These were areas of exclusive federal ownership *and* control.

Other areas of the West that included early national monument designations were owned by the national government, so an issue of control short of ownership was not at play in any of those designations. That may be relevant to the type of control Congress intended as a predicate to the exercise of authority under the Antiquities Act.

B. Previous Scholarly Opinion

Most of the literature on presidential uses of the Antiquities Act responded to the Clinton Administration's monument designations. Recent work has also emerged in response to an earlier version of this paper released by the American Enterprise Institute,¹⁹ and to President Trump's subsequent executive orders in late April to the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce to review and make recommendations on whether to alter the largest and most controversial

¹⁶ 252 U.S. 450 (1920).

¹⁷ See *United States v. California*, 436 U.S. 32 (1978); and *Alaska v. United States*, 545 U.S. 75 (2005), discussed at page 15.

¹⁸ See *Tulare County v. Bush*, 306 F.3d 1138, 1142 (D.C. Cir. 2001) (rejecting a challenge to the 327,769-acre Giant Sequoia National Monument as not constituting "the smallest areas compatible with proper care and management" of the objects being protected). Although the Supreme Court has not ruled expressly on a challenge to the excessive size of a monument, the courts have deferred to many presidential determinations under the act, and challengers may have to show an abuse of discretion to prevail on a size-based claim. See discussion of judicial review at page 16. Nevertheless, *Tulare County* may be distinguishable in future challenges since the court held that the challengers failed to establish a factual basis for their claim, not that such a claim was barred. Consider one justification President Obama provided for creating the recent Bears Ears National Monument, which Utah officials have already said they will challenge: that it contains several ancient archeological sites. Although the proclamation also cited the area's cultural, geological, and historical significance, it is unclear how isolated archeological sites are better protected after a massive 1.35 million acre monument designation that incorporates all of them than before the designation, especially when the same two federal agencies (the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management) will each manage the same areas after the designation as before it.

¹⁹ John Yoo & Todd Gaziano, "Presidential Authority to Revoke or Reduce National Monument Designations," Am. Enter. Inst. (March 2017), <https://perma.cc/PX7W-UD3E>

monument designations from the last 21 and 10 years, respectively (the later period for marine monuments).²⁰

President Clinton used the Antiquities Act a number of times to withdraw vast expanses of federal land and territory on the high seas, and in doing so, revived a longstanding debate over whether the Antiquities Act is a legal and proper mechanism for public land management. Much of the legal literature analyzes these designations to draw broader conclusions about the Act and the reach of executive power. President Obama's use of the Antiquities Act for similar purposes (including in his last few weeks in office) broke Clinton's previous records in the number and size of controversial monument designations, and renewed concerns over the Act's use.

Much legal scholarship defends such broad interpretation of the Antiquities Act because that enables environmental preservation without the delay and compromise of politics.²¹ Scholars dismiss criticism that the Act is meant only to protect manmade landscapes;²² they argue that, in fact, the purpose of the Act is to provide an efficient, immediate mechanism for environmental preservation of both manmade and natural sites.²³

They premise legal justification of aggressive presidential use of the Antiquities Act on the protective purpose of the Act, its broad language, and the perceived acquiescence of the other branches to the expansion of presidential power.²⁴ According to Christina Klein, the "seeds of preservationism" sit in the plain language of the Act, both in the breadth of the landscapes it purports to protect and in the expansive grant of power that it bestows upon the president.²⁵ This language evidences that Congress recognized the necessity of a strong executive to protect historic and natural sites alike.²⁶ Klein and others also claim that the failure of the other two branches to constrain the president's power under the Act implies their tacit acceptance.²⁷ The courts have consistently construed the president's discretion under the Act broadly, and Congress

²⁰ Exec. Order No. 13,792, Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act, 82 Fed. Reg. 20,429 (Apr. 26, 2017), <https://perma.cc/CA3A-QEEQ> (The Order directs the Secretary of Interior to review monuments or expansions of them since 1996 that are larger than 100,000 acres "or those made without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders." Id. at § 2(a). The Order directs the Secretary to make interim and final "recommendations for . . . Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other actions consistent with law as the Secretary may consider appropriate." Id. at § 2(d)-(e)). Exec. Order No. 13,795, Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, 82 Fed. Reg. 20,815 (Apr. 28, 2017), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/04/28/presidential-executive-order-implementing-america-first-offshore-energy> (The Order directs the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with other relevant cabinet secretaries, to review and make recommendations on "all designations and expansions of Marine National Monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906 . . . designated or expanded within the 10-year period prior to the date of this order." Id. at § 4(b)).

²¹ See, e.g., Kelly Y. Fanizzo, "Separation of Powers and Federal Land Management: Enforcing the Direction of the President Under the Antiquities Act," *Environmental Law* 40 (2010): 765, 822; Roberto Iraolo, "Proclamations of National Monuments and the Scope of Judicial Review Under the Antiquities Act of 1906," *William & Mary Environmental Law Journal* 29 (2004): 159.

²² See Christina Klein, "Preserving Monumental Landscapes Under the Antiquities Act," *Cornell Law Review* 87 (2002): 1333, 1365.

²³ Fanizzo, *supra* note , at 794.

²⁴ Klein, *supra* note, at 1336; Iraolo, *supra* note , at 185-86; Sanjay Ranchod, Note: "The Clinton National Monuments: Protecting Ecosystems with the Antiquities Act," *Harvard Environmental Law Review* 25 (2001): 535, 582.

²⁵ Klein, *supra* note, at 1383.

²⁶ Fanizzo, *supra* note , at 794.

²⁷ Klein, *supra* note, at 1336; Iraolo, *supra* note , at 185-86; Ranchod, *supra* note , at 582.

has failed to amend the Act, except as it applies to Wyoming and Alaska, despite aggressive executive implementation.²⁸

Indeed, it seems that courts have generally deferred to the president in interpreting the extent of his power to withdraw public lands from use. Robert Iraolo compiled and analyzed the case law interpreting the grant of discretion under the Act and found that courts have never found a monument designation to be inconsistent with the statute's language.²⁹ Kelly Fanizzo argues that the courts' broad statutory construction is also prudential. Presidents are best positioned to best determine the area of land for withdrawal and its best management. Moreover, they are much better able to effect a unified policy than a politically deadlocked Congress.³⁰ These scholars conclude that such deference is consistent with separation of powers principles because the question of land designation is a political one that should be left to a power struggle between Congress and the president, rather than to judicial review.³¹ Fanizzo goes even farther, arguing that courts have an affirmative responsibility to enforce presidential directives on monuments across future administrations and thus should hear private lawsuits to compel their enforcement.³²

Other scholars acknowledge that there is room for debate about whether expansive designations by presidents actually comport with the language and purposes of the Antiquities Act. For example, Scott Nishimoto analyzed President Clinton's 1.1 million acre designation of the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument using different approaches to statutory interpretation to show how different legal lenses might lead to different conclusions.³³ Under a textualist approach, he predicts that existing precedent interpreting the "ordinary meaning" of the Act's language, which finds broad discretion in preservation, would likely support deference to the president's judgment the land necessary for protection of a monument.³⁴ On the other hand, under an originalist approach, the Parashant designation likely exceeded the "smallest area compatible" requirement because Congress "believed that the Act was going to protect only small geographical areas of land."³⁵ Finally, under a "dynamic" approach, which recalibrates the values of a statute according to unforeseen social, technological, and legal developments, he concludes that the designation is questionable because there are legitimate and sharply contrasting values at stake.³⁶

Another group of scholars has scrutinized the lack of procedural requirements that the Antiquities Act imposes on the president in making designations, particularly focusing on its failure to require the input of interested parties and local communities who will be affected by monument withdrawals. Scholars have ultimately split on whether the Antiquities Act would be improved by increasing the amount of process required by statute.

²⁸ Klein, *supra* note, at 1336.

²⁹ Iraolo, *supra* note, at 185-86.

³⁰ Fanizzo, *supra* note, at 819.

³¹ Iraolo, *supra* note, at 188-89.

³² Fanizzo, *supra* note, at 822.

³³ Scott Y. Nishimoto, "President Clinton's Designation of the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument: Using Statutory Interpretation Models to Determine the Proper Application of the Antiquities Act," *Journal of Environmental Law & Litigation* 17 (2002): 51, 80.

³⁴ *Id.* at 86-87.

³⁵ *Id.* at 89.

³⁶ *Id.* at 84.

On one side of the debate is scholar James Rasband, who argues that the Antiquities Act should be amended to “require public participation in the withdrawal process and mandate explicit consideration of impact on local communities.”³⁷ Rasband concedes the allure of using the Antiquities Act to avoid the political hassle of trying to get a land protection bill through Congress.³⁸ However, he also admits to being “troubled” by “defending an act whose primary value is as a tool to circumvent Congress” and to avoid resistance by local interests.³⁹ In order to make Antiquities Act designations more democratically legitimate, he recommends either an amendment to require public process or an “ethical code” to guide the withdrawal process in a way that respects the rights and voices of those affected.⁴⁰

Other scholars disagree that public participation is necessary or desirable to the execution of monument designations. Squillace argues that “the lack of process and public participation are virtues of the act that make it effective.”⁴¹ In his view, public participation would be captured by private interests and political ideology and thus would not be helpful to the president in determining whether particular land should be withdrawn.⁴² More broadly stated, Squillace’s position is that “public participation should not be allowed, or at least should be carefully regulated, when it has the potential to undermine the common good by interfering with the Government’s capacity to make decisions that are designed to promote the public interest.”⁴³

Albert Lin agrees that the Act is sufficiently democratic despite the lack of statutorily prescribed process.⁴⁴ He argues that voters can hold the president accountable at the ballot box if they are sufficiently outraged at his use of the Antiquities Act power.⁴⁵ Second, he argues that Congress has sufficient mechanisms to check the president because it may withhold funding for a monument’s administration or can reverse the designation consistent with its ultimate authority over public lands.⁴⁶ Finally, as a matter of public policy, he argues that unilateral executive authority is preferable in the environmental context.⁴⁷ He has maintained that the president is highly accountable, he is “less subject to pressures from local [or private] interests,” and he can make withdrawals quickly and decisively when necessary.⁴⁸ Thus, any information-gathering benefits of public comment are limited and counterproductive.⁴⁹

Antiquities Act scholars, however, are divided on the question of whether a president may revoke a monument designated by his predecessor. One group is comprised of those that believe that later revocation is prohibited, and a second is made up of those who consider the question

³⁷ James Rasband, “Utah’s Grand Staircase: The Right Path to Wilderness Preservation?” *University of Colorado Law Review* 70 (1999): 483, 553.

³⁸ *Id.* at 550.

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ *Id.* at 557.

⁴¹ Mark Squillace, “The Monumental Legacy of the Antiquities Act of 1906” 476 (Legal Studies Res. Paper Series Working Paper No. 07-16, 2007).

⁴² *Id.* at 576.

⁴³ *Id.* at 577.

⁴⁴ Albert C. Lin, “Clinton’s National Monuments: A Democrat’s Undemocratic Acts,” *Ecology Law Quarterly* 29 (2002): 707.

⁴⁵ *Id.* at 726.

⁴⁶ *Id.* at 728.

⁴⁷ *Id.* at 742.

⁴⁸ *Id.* at 735-43.

⁴⁹ *Id.*

still open. Prior to 2017, Iraolo, Klein, Squillace, and Rasband all concluded that presidents may not revoke an existing monument, provided it was legally designated, a conclusion shared by Squillace, Biber, Bryner, and Hecht.⁵⁰ They acknowledge that the question has not been directly addressed by the courts, but nonetheless offer several arguments in favor of this conclusion. Some rely on the 1938 Attorney General opinion as dispositive.⁵¹ Klein additionally argues that there is a qualitative difference between executive orders involving “minor policy initiatives,” which are subject to reversal, and major declarations like Antiquities Act monuments, for which a reviewing court would hesitate to “countenance the casual reversal.”⁵² She cites *INS v. Chadha* for support for the general proposition “that when the executive branch acts pursuant to a lawful delegation of authority, such action can be revoked only by an act of Congress.”⁵³ Rasband agrees that no such reversal power could be implied merely from a delegation of authority to withdraw.⁵⁴

Squillace and his co-authors in the *Virginia Law Review* raise some additional arguments, some of which have been briefly discussed elsewhere. It argues that, in contrast to earlier scholarship that the Antiquities Act should be broadly construed, that the Act grants only “narrow” authority to designate national monuments but not revoke or reduce them.⁵⁵ The authors argue that the Pickett Act and the Forest Service Organic Administration Act grant express authority to revoke withdrawals, and that this implies Congress withheld revocation authority in the Antiquities Act.⁵⁶ It also argues that in 1976, Congress clarified that only it can revoke or downsize a national monument in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.⁵⁷

Others, however, remain less convinced about how a reviewing court would rule. Fanizzo, Nishimoto, and Ranchod all treat the question as open. Fanizzo notes that presidential orders are generally repealable on the president’s initiative without procedural requirements,⁵⁸ though she acknowledges authority that purports to treat monument designations differently.⁵⁹ Nishimoto and Ranchod note the uncertainty without making a legal conclusion.⁶⁰

II. A General Discretionary Power to Revoke Prior Designations

This Part explains why Presidents have a general power to reverse the designation of landmarks as national landmarks by their predecessors. It first addresses the main authority for the proposition that such designations are permanent: the 1938 Justice Department opinion of Attorney General Cummings. We believe that Cummings reached the wrong outcome because of serious errors of interpretation and legal context. It then sets out the general principle of constitutional and administrative law that the executive branch, and, indeed, the other branches

⁵⁰Squillace, et al., *supra* note .

⁵¹ See Squillace, *supra* note , at 552-56; Klein, *supra* note , at 1387-89; SBBH Research Paper, *supra* note at 58-59.

⁵² Klein, *supra* note , at 1389.

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ James Rasband, “The Future of the Antiquities Act,” *Journal of Land, Resources, & Environmental Law* 21 (2001): 619, 625.

⁵⁵ SBBH Research Paper, *supra* note at 57-58.

⁵⁶ *Id.* at 58. We respond to these arguments, *infra* at .

⁵⁷ *Id.* at 59-64. We respond to this argument, *infra* at .

⁵⁸ Fanizzo, *supra* note , at 808, n. 270.

⁵⁹ *Id.* at 822.

⁶⁰ Nishimoto, *supra* note , at 93; Ranchod, *supra* note , at 554.

of government, can undo their past decisions by following the same legal process. Finally, it explains that in the delegation of its constitutional power over public lands, Congress could have introduced a one-way ratchet into the Antiquities Act. But it chose not to. As a result, the executive's use of delegated power survives so long as future Presidents choose not to reverse it with the Antiquities Act as well as any other administrative statute.

A. The Many Flaws of the Cummings Opinion

Much of the existing scholarship errs in relying heavily on the 1938 opinion of Attorney General Cummings. Cummings advised FDR that he lacked the authority to revoke President Coolidge's designation of the Castle Pinckney National Monument because he concluded that no power existed to revoke a prior designation.⁶¹ Although the opinion has been cited in some later government documents⁶² and by legal commentators, no court has ruled on the president's revocation power or cited the opinion, in part because no president has attempted to revoke a prior designation.⁶³

Attorney General Cummings addressed whether the secretary of the interior could abolish the Castle Pinckney National Monument in Charleston, South Carolina, and transfer the land to the War Department. Under the Antiquities Act, President Calvin Coolidge had formed the monument in 1924 from a US fort that had existed in the Charleston harbor since the early 19th century. As Attorney General Cummings observed, the Antiquities Act contained no clear textual authorization to "abolish" national monuments. "If the President has such authority, therefore, it exists by implication."⁶⁴

Cummings concluded that without clear authorization from Congress, President Roosevelt could not reverse the designation of Castle Pinckney as a national monument. In a brief opinion, he relied on two grounds. First, he believed U.S. Attorney General Edward Bates had settled the issue in an 1862 opinion that found that the president could not return a military reservation to the pool of general public lands available for sale. Second, he compared the Antiquities Act to other federal laws governing temporary withdrawals of federal land or forests, which explicitly provide for presidential modification of past designations. In addressing past practice, which he conceded supported a right to reduce the size of national monuments, Cummings argued that "it

⁶¹ Proposed Abolishment of Castle Pinkney Nat'l Monument, 39 Op. Att'y Gen. 185 (1938).

⁶² The solicitor of interior cited the opinion in 1947 but for a different proposition, namely that the president can alter the boundaries of a national monument. See "National Monuments," *Interior Decisions* 60 (1947): 9.

⁶³ The attorney general was first authorized to issue legal opinions to the president under the Judiciary Act of 1789, now codified at 28 U.S.C. §§ 511-513, and to other agency heads by that act and other delegations of authority from the president. Attorney general opinions, and those that now are issued by the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Legal Counsel (OLC), are binding on executive branch agencies. In contrast, a president is free to disregard them—especially if he concludes that his oath to take care that the laws are faithfully executed conflicts with such an opinion. Nevertheless, prudence dictates that the president request that his own attorney general reexamine such opinion, perhaps with the assistance of OLC, which became an independent division of the DOJ in 1951 and is commissioned to provide serious legal analysis on such matters. The existence of Cummings' 1938 published opinion is an internal hurdle that any administration should address, preferably with another published opinion, either affirming, qualifying, or overruling Cummings' advice.

⁶⁴ 39 Op. Att'y Gen. 186.

does not follow from power so to confine that area that he has the power to abolish a monument entirely.”⁶⁵

Cummings’ opinion is wrong in some obvious respects and too cursory to be persuasive even if its errors were excised. One major flaw is Cummings’ misreading of Attorney General Bates’ opinion,⁶⁶ 44 years before the enactment of the Antiquities Act. Bates’ opinion discusses whether an administration in the 1840s could rescind a military reservation in Illinois for which Congress had appropriated money and on which a fort had been constructed. He found that the statute delegating to the president the power to designate land for military purposes did not include a power to withdraw the designation. Bates seemed to believe that delegated power, once used, could not be activated to reverse the decision that the president had effectively exhausted the delegation of power. “A duty properly performed by the Executive under statutory authority has the validity and sanctity which belong to the statute itself, and, unless it be within the terms of the power conferred by that statute, the Executive can no more destroy his own authorized work, without some other legislative sanction, than any other person can.”⁶⁷

But the original 1862 opinion contains many factual and legal distinctions that Cummings does not address. For example, Bates states that he is interpreting military reservation authority under “early acts of Congress” and an “act of 1809,” which provided appropriations for constructing forts “for the protection of the northern and western frontiers.” Perhaps most importantly, the 1862 opinion acknowledges that the military reservation itself could be abandoned by the War Department, which is the equivalent of revoking a land reservation under the Antiquities Act. It also relies on the fact that in 1858, Congress had specifically repealed any statutes that authorized the sale or transfer of military sites to the public. Of course, no such express statutory prohibition on the presidential withdrawal of national monument status exists in the Antiquities Act.

Instead, Bates focuses on whether an abandoned military reservation and its buildings would be subject to “entry or preemption by settlers.” This refers to the Preemption Act of 1841, which allowed squatters on federal land during the 1840s and 1850s to secure title to it at a low price (preempting a general public sale) if they also worked it for a number of years.⁶⁸ To conclude that squatters could not simply enter the military reservation and secure title to it “by preemption,” Bates relies on a combination of factors that are distinguishable from revoking a monument designation under the Antiquities Act, including: the unnamed “early acts of Congress,” which authorized its initial selection as a military reservation; the 1809 appropriation for military forts on the frontier; that Fort Armstrong had been constructed and occupied for more than two decades; that its buildings were still in good order; that other laws governed the sale of abandoned military property; and more recent acts of Congress relating to the particular piece of property, which assumed it was not subject to preemption by settlers.

Cummings did not acknowledge these and other potential distinctions. Bates found that separate laws governed the management and disposal of military property from the homesteading or preemption laws that had populated Kansas and Nebraska. It is not surprising that interpreting

⁶⁵ Ibid., 188.

⁶⁶ Rock Island Military Reservation, 10 Op. Att’y Gen. 359 (1862).

⁶⁷ Ibid., 364.

⁶⁸ The Homestead Act of 1862 revised this law, significantly reducing the number of “preemption” claims. But Bates was addressing the rights of settlers who may have occupied the former military property before 1862.

different statutes yields different results, but even so, Bates conceded that an improved military reservation could be abandoned and sold, just not pursuant to the Preemption Act of 1841. Cummings mistakenly read the 1862 opinion for the proposition that once land is reserved under any act of Congress, that reservation can never be rescinded.

In contrast to the question Bates addressed, revoking a monument designation under the Antiquities Act would not change the federal ownership of the land at issue. For this and other reasons, the portion of the 1862 opinion that Cummings quoted is especially questionable as applied to land reservations under the Antiquities Act. The quoted language also contains several inapt analogies and question-begging propositions of law.

For example, Cummings quotes the proposition that the “power to execute a trust, even discretionarily, *by no means* implies the further power to undo it when it has been completed” (emphasis supplied). The italicized phrase is misleading. Not every grant of a power to create something must include the power to abolish it, but many do. Special circumstances might make revoking certain acts impossible, or that power might be withheld, but a presumption of revocability is often implied if the grant is silent.⁶⁹

Indeed, reliance on trust law should have led to the opposite conclusion, at least under the Antiquities Act. Under general trust principles, at least in the 20th and 21st centuries, the power to create a trust includes the power to revoke it when the settlor retains an interest in it, unless the trust is expressly irrevocable under the original grant of authority.⁷⁰ If a court applied trust law principles to the Antiquities Act, we think it would conclude that the president retains an interest in the monument designations he or a predecessor creates, including that he has the duty to manage them, issue and enforce regulations to protect them, and adjust their borders from time to time with subsequent presidential proclamations. Moreover, the broader principle of trust law is that the party creating the trust has the power to decide whether it is revocable; the discretionary nature of the president’s power under the Antiquities Act and certain textual cues suggest Congress did not intend to make all monument reservations permanent.

Cummings’ reliance on Bates’ analysis fares no better than his reliance on trust law. It is true that a president has no general constitutional authority to manage federal land, although he may have some limited powers as commander in chief or under other statutory grants of authority. That, however, does not answer whether Congress’ grant of authority in “early acts of Congress” or the Antiquities Act of 1906 to make reservations includes the power to rescind or revoke them. Indeed, Bates conceded that military reservations could be abandoned; he just believed the land would not be subject to “preemption by settlers.” In the context of the Antiquities Act, a president could rescind or amend the parcels of land reserved for a given monument without repealing the underlying monument designation. There is no evidence that Congress intended to withhold either revocation power in the Antiquities Act, let alone both of them.

Bates’ final proposition is equally circular as applied to the Antiquities Act. He asserts that reading the unnamed “early acts of Congress” and especially the 1809 appropriation to allow “preemption by settlers” would effect a repeal of the underlying laws: “To assert such a principle is to claim for the Executive the power to repeal or alter an act of Congress at will.” That

⁶⁹ See Uniform Trust Code: Revocation or Amendment of Revocable Trust § 602(a) (2010) (“Unless the terms of a trust expressly provide that the trust is irrevocable.”).

⁷⁰ See Restatement (Third) of Trusts: Power of Settlor to Revoke or Modify § 63 (2003).

presidents cannot unilaterally repeal statutes does not answer whether Congress included the power both to make and revoke reservations in the original grant of authority under the Antiquities Act.

Cummings' only attempt at an original argument starts and ends with one of the Antiquities Act's purposes: "to preserve . . . objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States." Cummings then immediately concludes, in *ipse dixit* fashion (without making a coherent argument), that: "For the reasons stated above, I am of the opinion that the President is without authority" to issue a proclamation revoking the Castle Pinckney National Monument.

Such casual reliance on one of the act's purposes, and one that was not set forth in the act itself, adds nothing of weight, since it does not explain why revoking the monument at issue was inconsistent with that general purpose of preserving objects of national significance. What if the president determined, for example, that no objects of national significance remained at a given site?

Cummings also does not fairly consider other purposes. If a textual ambiguity justified a resort to legislative materials, the full record would show that the act's primary purpose was to provide a power to the president to prevent the destruction and looting of artifacts until they were excavated and safeguarded or until Congress could consider long-term measures regarding the site. This more complete statement of purposes highlights that the passage of time matters and that a later president could reasonably conclude that Congress declined the opportunity to legislate on the land or objects in an earlier monument designation or that they were now safeguarded, such as by excavation and display in a museum.

B. The General Power of Reversal

A proper analysis of the revocation power under the Antiquities Act would also consider other grants of authority to the president in the Constitution and other statutes and how the courts and constitutional practice have treated them. Cummings made no effort to do that in 1938, and the range of presidential action the courts have upheld, even under older delegations dating to the post Civil War era, is now more muscular than in early-20th-century jurisprudence.

The general principle is that the authority to execute a discretionary government power usually includes the power to revoke it unless the original grant expressly limits the power of revocation. One particularly relevant statutory example is the executive's power to issue regulations pursuant to statutory authority. When Congress gives an agency the discretionary authority to issue regulations, it is presumed to also have the authority to repeal them.⁷¹ This is especially true when the regulation has shown to be contrary to the purposes underlying the statute.⁷² Section 4 of the Antiquities Act grants three department secretaries the power to publish "from time to time uniform rules and regulations for the purpose of carrying out this Act." Although Congress did not expressly state that the officials can repeal or significantly alter their regulations once they are published "from time to time," that is presumed by law. The broader power of revocation by the president should also be strongly presumed.

⁷¹ See, e.g., *Commonwealth of Pa. v. Lynn*, 501 F.2d 848, 855-56 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

⁷² See *ibid.*

Squillace and his *Virginia Law Review* co-authors argue that other federal land management statutes from the turn of the 19th century expressly granted the power to reverse a land withdrawal decision, implying that the power is denied otherwise.⁷³ The most important flaw in their analysis is that, while some statutes seem to provide express revocation authority, they cannot point to any court decision or other controlling authority that holds that revocation authority does not exist when a statute is silent. If they were correct, almost all regulations would operate as a one-way ratchet that would prevent future administrations from modifying or repealing past rules. As we have observed, of course, courts interpreting the Administrative Procedure Act have found that statutory silence means the exact opposite. In the absence of any such holding, the preferred presumption Squillace and his colleagues falls apart, especially in light of the numerous instances we describe above and later in this section that supports a strong presumption that the power to act includes the power to revoke or modify that act.

Beyond that, the examples cited by Squillace and his co-authors are not as strong as they first seem. The Pickett Act of 1910, for example allowed the President to withdraw federal lands from settlement and reserve them for certain purposes. The statute also provides that that the withdrawal would remain in effect “until revoked by him [referring to the President] or an Act of Congress.” From this, Squillace and his colleagues imply that the President lacks revocation authority in other statutes where it is not granted explicitly. Yet, the text of the Pickett Act doesn’t affirmatively authorize the President to revoke a withdrawal. Instead, it *assumes the power* exists and merely confirms that the withdrawal remains in effect until the President exercises that reserved power. That is hardly an express grant of revocation authority, let alone reason to suspect that President doesn’t have such authority when Congress is silent.

Moreover, if the Pickett Act argument were valid, the President wouldn’t be the only constitutional actor unable to revoke a monument designation. The Pickett Act also specifically mentions Congress’ power to revoke a withdrawal (“until revoked by . . . an Act of Congress”). There’s no similar reference to Congress’s revocation authority in the Antiquities Act. If silence is enough to bar the President from revoking a national monument designation, it would also mean that Congress couldn’t do so either. That unavoidable implication of the argument by Squillace et al. makes it a nonstarter.

The Forest Service Organic Administration Act’s language does expressly authorize the President “to modify any Executive order that has been or may hereafter be made establishing any forest reserve, and by such modification may reduce the area or change the boundary lines of such reserve, or may vacate altogether any order creating such reserve.” For whatever reason, Congress took a belt-and-suspenders approach in the FSOA to make abundantly clear that the President can revoke forest reserves by executive order. This doesn’t imply that the President is otherwise unable to reverse other executive directives. Presidents regularly revise or revoke them. The President’s authority to revoke an executive order is not limited to the FSOA and other statutes that expressly authorize him to do so. Otherwise, many of President Trump’s executive orders would be permanent and binding on all future Presidents.

Constitutional law axioms are even more relevant in undermining the Squillace et al. view. A basic principle of the Constitution is that a branch of government can reverse its earlier actions using the same process originally used. Thus, Article I, Section 7, of the Constitution describes

⁷³ SBBH Research Paper, *supra* note at 58.

only the process for enacting a federal law. A statute must pass through both bicameralism (approval of both Houses of Congress) and presentment (presidential approval). But the Constitution describes no process for repealing a statute.

Under Squillace's logic, Congress could not repeal previous statutes because of the Constitution's silence. Since the adoption of the Constitution, however, our governmental practice is that Congress may eliminate an existing statute simply by enacting a new measure through bicameralism and presentment. While passage of an earlier law may make its repeal politically difficult, due to the need to assemble majorities in both Houses and the requirement of presidential signature, no Congress can bind future Congresses in the use of their legislative power.

This principle applies to all three branches of the federal government. The Supreme Court effectively repeals past opinions simply by overruling the earlier case, though the Constitution does not expressly provide for such reversals. *Brown v. Board of Education*⁷⁴ famously overruled *Plessy v. Ferguson*.⁷⁵ While the Court may follow past precedent out of *stare decisis*, it employs the same procedure to reverse the holding of past cases, as Congress does to reverse an earlier statute. Both a precedent and its subsequent overruling decision require only a simple majority of the justices. No Supreme Court can bind future Supreme Courts.

This rule also applies to the Constitution as a whole. In Article V, the Constitution creates an additional process for amending its own text, which requires two-thirds approval by the House and the Senate and then the agreement of three-quarters of the states. Without this additional option in Article V, the Constitution would require the same or very similar process for its amendment as for its enactment (which would have impractically required a new constitutional convention). Reinforcing our point, the framers decided to set out explicit mechanisms for repealing part of the original constitutional text when they wanted to provide a means that did not mirror the original enacting process.

The same principle applies to the constitutional amendments themselves. The Constitution contains no provision for undoing a constitutional amendment. Instead, the nation has used constitutional amendments to repeal previous constitutional amendments. The 21st Amendment repealed Prohibition, which had been enacted by the 18th Amendment. When the Constitution is silent about a method for repeal, it is assumed that we are to use the same process as that of enactment.

The executive branch operates under the same rule. No president can bind future presidents in the use of their constitutional authorities. Presidents commonly issue executive orders reversing, modifying, or even extending the executive orders of past presidents. No court has ever questioned that authority, even when it is used to implement statutorily delegated powers. Good examples include the successive executive orders of Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama to specify how the White House would manage and review the congressionally mandated rulemaking process.⁷⁶ It would

⁷⁴ 347 U.S. 483 (1954)

⁷⁵ 163 U.S. 537 (1896).

⁷⁶ Exec. Orders Nos. 11821, 39 F.R. 41501 (1974) (Ford); 12044, 43 F.R. 12661 (1978) (Carter); 12291, 46 F.R. 13193 (1981) (Reagan); 12866, 58 F.R. 51735 (1993) (Clinton); 13258, 67 F.R. 9385 (2002), and 13422, 72 F.R. 2763 (2007) (G.W. Bush); and 13497, 74 F.R. 6113 (2009) (Obama).

be anomalous for an executive directive or presidential proclamation to somehow become immune to repeal or amendment by a subsequent president.

The implied ability of Presidents to reverse earlier presidential acts applies beyond the implementation of statutory delegations of authority. Presidents can always reverse their predecessors' exercise of executive power under the Constitution. Presidents regularly add or remove executive branch officers appointed to White House committees or even the cabinet. They have created and eliminated whole offices in the Executive Office of the President. They have increased or reduced the use of cost-benefit analysis in regulatory decisions. In fact, when the Constitution deviates from this lawmaking symmetry, it explicitly does so in the text and in a manner that makes repeal easier than the first affirmative act.

The most famous example is the president's removal power. In Anglo-American constitutional history, the executive power traditionally included the power both to hire and fire subordinate executive officials. The Constitution altered that traditional appointment process. Under Article II, Section 2, the president nominates and, with the Senate's advice and consent, appoints high executive branch officers, judges, and ambassadors. The Constitution, however, does not explicitly address removing an officer, a fact central to the debate in the First Congress over whether to permit the President to fire cabinet officers. As Sai Prakash has shown, Congress accepted that the President had the constitutional authority to remove the chiefs of the first great departments.⁷⁷ The Framing generation understood the Constitution's silence to allow the President to reverse the appointment process, even without congressional consent.

In *Myers v. United States*,⁷⁸ the Supreme Court firmly recognized this principle. It found that the Constitution implicitly retained the traditional rule that a president could unilaterally undo an appointment without the Senate's approval. In revoking an official's commission that was issued after Senate confirmation, the president is more clearly negating a specific, deliberative, and official Senate act. By contrast, revoking a predecessor's individual monument designation does not negate anything in particular that Congress approved.

A similar dynamic applies to the Treaty Clause. Under Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution, the president can make treaties subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. Again, the Constitution does not explicitly set out the procedure for terminating a treaty. But as a four-justice plurality of the Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit have

⁷⁷ We have been guided through the various debates and changes in the statutory proposals by Saikrishna B. Prakash, *New Light on the Decision of 1789*, 91 Cornell Law Review 1021, 1029-34 (2006). The debate is also recounted prominently by David Currie, *The Constitution in Congress: The Federalist Period 1789-1801*, at 36-41 (1997); Charles C. Thach, Jr., *The Creation of the Presidency, 1775-1789*, at 140-65 (1923); and James Hart, *The American Presidency in Action 1789*, at 155-89 (1948). Some have argued that Congress's actions indicate that the Treasury Department was not even an executive department, but rather an administrative agency outside of direct presidential control. See Lawrence Lessig & Cass R. Sunstein, *The President and the Administration*, 94 Columbia Law Review 1, 28 (1994). Steven Calabresi and Sai Prakash have shown their arguments on this score to be off the mark. See Steven G. Calabresi & Saikrishna B. Prakash, *The President's Power to Execute the Laws*, 104 Yale Law Journal 541 (1994). Indeed, Madison's arguments in the House that the Treasury Department ought to be unified under one secretary accountable to the President defeats their claim. For some interesting applications of this theme to Congress and the federal courts, see Saikrishna Prakash, *Removal and Tenure in Office*, 92 Virginia Law Review 1779 (2006).

⁷⁸ 272 U.S. 52 (1926).

found, the president retains the traditional executive authority to unilaterally terminate treaties.⁷⁹ Presidents and Senates cannot bind future presidents to treaties, just as they cannot prevent future presidents from removing executive branch officials.

Although the power to unilaterally abrogate a treaty flows from a grant of constitutional authority to the president to manage foreign relations, Congress is also constitutionally prohibited from delegating a statutory power to the president and then micromanaging the discretion granted.⁸⁰ Thus, an attempt by Congress to prevent later presidents from using the delegated authority of the Antiquities Act to reverse an earlier monument designation would raise serious constitutional questions. Such logic would mean that Presidents could never remove a cabinet officer or terminate a treaty—indeed, their logic would imply that no one could remove an executive branch officer and treaties would be permanent.

III. A Limited Power to Revoke Certain National Monuments or Declare Others Invalid

Even if every monument designation cannot be revoked as a matter of presidential discretion, authority might still exist to abolish some designations based on an earlier factual error, changed circumstances, or an original statutory violation. In short, three determinations, two factual and one legal, may provide strong grounds for certain monument revocations or invalidations.

A. New Factual Determinations

First, if the president concludes that the original designation was mistaken, perhaps because of an archeological fraud, historical error, or improved or updated scientific analysis, the predicate for original designation would be undermined. It would be hard to argue that Congress intended that every curiosity deemed scientifically interesting to a president 100 years ago (the once popular but now discredited and racist branch of human craniology/phrenology comes to mind) forever must remain a valid source of scientific interest and protection. It might be more controversial for a president to determine that a geological monument designation thought to be rare and scientifically interesting by an earlier president is not all that worthy of protection as a monument, but limiting such reevaluation would elevate certain determinations (or privilege geological claims) over others in a manner that would be hard to logically sustain.

Second, as explained above, the Antiquities Act also was intended to provide authority to preserve artifacts that might otherwise be looted. Even assuming the original designation was proper, if the relevant artifacts were excavated and removed and are now on display in a museum off-site, how can it be said that the reserved parcels are currently the “smallest areas compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected”? If any of these changes of fact or scientific interest justify revocation, then the general argument against revocation would be on shaky grounds, and discretionary revocations at will would be a more plausible interpretation of the act.

B. Problems of Size.

⁷⁹ See *Goldwater v. Carter*, 617 F.2d 697 (D.C. Cir. 1979), vacated by *Goldwater v. Carter*, 444 U.S. 996 (1979); and *Kucinich v. Bush*, 236 F. Supp. 2d 1 (D.D.C. 2002). For a summary of the academic discussion on treaty interpretation and termination, see John Yoo, *The False Sirens of Delegation: Treaty Interpretation and Separation of Powers*, 90 Cal. L. Rev. 1305 (2002).

⁸⁰ See *INS v. Chadha*, 462 U.S. 919 (1983).

A presidential determination that an original designation was illegally or inappropriately large is a special case. It may provide a sound predicate for declaring a designation to be invalid or for significantly reducing the monument's size. The president might be presented with an issue analogous to a severability determination. If there is no reasonable way to reduce a reservation's size and maintain a meaningful monument, rescinding or declaring invalidity may be more appropriate. A review of controversies over the size of national monuments highlights three distinct periods of use and abuse, the last of which contains the most breathtakingly large monument designations.

Between 1906 and 1943, most monument reservations were smaller than 5,000 acres, and many of them actually protected antiquities. Yet there also were several large monument reservations or expansions during that period, mostly for scenic or geological formations. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's designation of Jackson Hole National Monument in 1943 was the catalyst for two reforms, only one of which was made permanent. Wyoming congressmen were strongly opposed to the 210,950-acre monument and reservation and secured a bill to overturn it, but President Roosevelt vetoed it. In 1950, Congress made Grand Teton National Park out of most of the land from the Jackson Hole monument and added the southern portion of the former monument to the National Elk Refuge. That law also amended the Antiquities Act, forbidding further use of it to expand or establish a national monument in Wyoming without express congressional authorization.⁸¹ The proviso enacted in 1950 does not prohibit the president from reducing the size of the monument reservation in Wyoming.

For the next 35 years, presidents remained moderate in their use of the Antiquities Act. Except for a couple of proclamations by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the period between 1943 and 1978 contained no especially vast monument reservations, and some presidents even reduced the size of older monuments. President Dwight D. Eisenhower's combined proclamations under the act caused a net reduction in total acreage devoted to national monuments. President Richard M. Nixon issued no Antiquities Act proclamations whatsoever.

In 1976, Congress enacted the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), which expressly limits a secretary of interior from withdrawing or modifying more than 5,000 acres of federal land without congressional approval. It provides:

The Secretary shall not make, modify, or revoke any withdrawal created by Act of Congress; make a withdrawal which can be made only by Act of Congress; modify or revoke any withdrawal creating national monuments under [the Antiquities Act]; or modify, or revoke any withdrawal which added lands to the National Wildlife Refuge System prior to October 21, 1976, or which thereafter adds lands to that System under the terms of this Act.

Some scholars, including Squillace and his co-authors, have suggested that this provision prohibits revocation or modification of monuments by all executive branch officials, including the president.⁸² They primarily rely on a House Committee report that states that FLPMA "would

⁸¹ 64 Stat. 849 (1950), codified at 54 U.S.C. § 320201(d) ("No extension or establishment of national monuments in Wyoming may be undertaken except by express authorization of Congress.").

⁸² See, e.g. Alexandra Wyatt, *Antiquities Act: Scope of Authority for Modification of National Monuments*, Congressional Research Service (R44687), November 14, 2016, 6, http://www.law.indiana.edu/publicland/files/national_monuments_modifications_CRS.pdf; Pamela Baldwin,

specifically reserve to the Congress the authority to modify and revoke withdrawals for national monuments created under the Antiquities Act.”⁸³

The lone snippet of an otherwise ambiguous legislative history report of one House is an especially weak thread on which to hang such a crucial argument. For one, even if the legislative history were clear regarding the President’s lack of authority to revoke national monuments and represented the actual view of both Houses of Congress, it is not the law. Congress neither amended the Antiquities Act in 1976, nor change the President’s authority to revoke a national monument in the text of the FLPMA.⁸⁴

The FLPMA’s express limitation on the secretary simply confirms the natural reading of the Antiquities Act, which grants authority to the president alone to specify the parcels of land withdrawn for any monument created pursuant to the act. It should not be read to raise doubts about the president’s authority to modify or revoke national monuments. The text creates no ambiguity or inference that Congress modified the president’s authority in the Antiquities Act. The opposite reading of the text is much stronger, i.e., that Congress knew how to write express limitations and that it would have listed the president if its restriction on the secretary of interior’s power was intended to bind the president. The legislative history cited for the contrary view is itself ambiguous, but should not be consulted when the statutory text is clear.

Perhaps the House Report author would have liked to deny the President this power, or perhaps it was written without thinking about the President’s authority, but it did not make it into the law that Congress enacted. Courts have been clear that legislative history cannot change unambiguous text and that legislative history from a later Congress is not a useful guide for legislation passed by an earlier one. Furthermore, an implied repeal of an existing statute or the President’s authority under it, which is all this argument could be, is strongly disfavored. As with clear statement rules in other areas, we should expect Congress to risk a severe intrusion into the President’s constitutional and statutory authority in plain and unmistakable text.

These principles sink the argument relying on the FLPMA House Report. FLPMA is clear that the limitation only applies to the Secretary, not the President. Just as the House Report cannot change the text of FLPMA, it cannot change the meaning of the Antiquities Act. Simply put, the report—even if it accurately reflected the views of the entire House of Representatives in 1976—is of no help in interpreting a statute enacted 70 years earlier.

Unfortunately, the abuses under the Antiquities Act expanded significantly after 1978, especially by Presidents Carter, Clinton, and Obama. Until last year, President Carter held the record for the most extensive monument reservations, with nine designations that were larger than a million acres and two larger than 10 million acres. Carter’s designation of more than 56 million acres of monument reservations in Alaska on a single day led to the most recent amendment to the Antiquities Act.

Authority of a President to Modify or Eliminate a National Monument, Congressional Research Service (RS20647), 2002; SBBH Research Paper, *supra* note 1 at 59-64.

⁸³ H. Rept. 94-1163 at 9 (1976).

⁸⁴ FLPMA §204(j), 43 U.S.C. § 1714(j).

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) was enacted by Congress and signed by President Carter on December 2, 1980, after his election loss to Reagan and the impending loss of Democratic Party control in the Senate.⁸⁵ The ANILCA settled many long-standing issues and land disputes, and it made many Alaska-specific changes to laws governing federal land management, including requiring congressional approval for national monuments in Alaska larger than 5,000 acres.⁸⁶ Whether this congressional reaction made an impression on them or for other reasons, Presidents Reagan and George H. W. Bush both issued no proclamations under the Antiquities Act.

Nevertheless, President Clinton broke new ground with the number of monument designations per term,⁸⁷ many of which were larger than 100,000 acres and two of which were larger than one million acres.⁸⁸ He also proclaimed a questionable new type of monument on the high seas. President George W. Bush issued fewer than half as many monument designations as Clinton, and some were relatively small. Yet, President George W. Bush made a few large monument designations, including a questionable designation along the Pacific Ocean's Marianas Trench.⁸⁹

President Barack Obama broke both Clinton's record number of monument proclamations per term and Carter's record for the total acres withdrawn. Among his 34 proclamations,⁹⁰ Obama enlarged the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument by approximately 283.4 million acres,⁹¹ enlarged the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument by approximately 261.3

⁸⁵ Pub. L. No. 96-487 (1980).

⁸⁶ See 16 U.S.C. § 3213.

⁸⁷ President Obama's 34 designations also overtook the previous record set by President Franklin Roosevelt, with 32 monument proclamations. See Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis, "Obama Names Five New National Monuments, Including Southern Civil Rights Sites," *Washington Post*, January 12, 2017, https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/obama-names-five-new-national-monuments-including-southern-civil-rights-sites/2017/01/12/7f5ce78c-d907-11e6-9a36-1d296534b31e_story.html. All presidents since 1906 have issued such proclamations except Presidents Nixon, Reagan, and George H. W. Bush. National Park Service, "National Monuments Designated by Presidents 1906–2009," https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/hisnps/NPSHistory/national_monuments.pdf. According to the National Parks Conservation Association, 157 monuments have been created under the Antiquities Act. See National Parks Conservation Association, "Monuments Protected Under the Antiquities Act." A few have been abolished by Congress. See National Park Service, "About 'Abolished' Monuments," March 15, 2016, <https://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/antiquities/abolished.htm>. And the land constituting Papago Saguaro National Monument was conveyed to the state of Arizona for public purposes. See 54 U.S.C.A. § 320301 note, citing Pub. L. 92, 71st Cong., Apr. 7, 1930, c. 107, 46 Stat. 142.

⁸⁸ See Lin, "Clinton's National Monuments," 718–19.

⁸⁹ Bryan Walsh, "President Bush's Last Act of Greenness," *Time*, January 6, 2009, <http://content.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1869917,00.html> (noting that President Bush will have "protected more ocean than anyone else in the world").

⁹⁰ Eilperin and Dennis, "Obama Names Five New National Monuments"; and Dana Varinsky, "Here's Every Piece of Land Obama Has Put Under Protection During His Presidency," *Business Insider*, January 16, 2017, <http://www.businessinsider.com/every-piece-of-land-obama-has-protected-2017-1/#cascade-siskiyou-national-monument-1>.

⁹¹ Papahānaumokuākea.gov, "President Announces Expansion of Papahānaumokuākea," http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/news/expansion_announcement.html.

million acres,⁹² and created the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, which covers approximately 3,144,320 acres.⁹³

Several of President Obama's proclamations flew in the teeth of strong congressional opposition and undermined pending congressional legislation. For example, on December 28, 2016, he created the 1.35 million acre Bears Ears National Monument in southern Utah and the 300,000-acre Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada. Both designations were opposed by state officials and GOP congressional leaders, including the unanimous congressional delegation from Utah, which was willing to compromise on a smaller monument in Utah that permitted reasonable public uses of the area. The protective impact of the Bears Ears National Monument is particularly dubious since it is supposed to protect isolated Native American sites. It is unclear, for example, how the agency officials will protect those sites any differently after the monument designation than they might have before.

A designation smaller than 5,000 acres may still be too large (relative to some objects being protected) or politically abusive if the designation is for a questionable purpose, for example, to interfere with congressional deliberations over a compromise land-use arrangement or to regulate fishing that is not otherwise authorized. But reservations larger than 5,000 acres merit special review out of respect for Congress' traditional authority to establish federal land policy, especially if there was no "emergency" necessitating the monument designation without congressional action or if congressional leaders had expressed serious opposition to the monument designation.

If a president makes a credible determination, based on the facts and a reasonable interpretation of the act, that some former monuments are illegally large relative to the original "object" supposedly being protected, he could declare that the initial designation was void, especially if there is no easy way to make it lawful by severing discrete parcels of land. That is distinct from his power to "revoke" those he thinks were originally lawful, and it would stem from his constitutional authority to take care that the laws are faithfully executed. Even so, a president trying to insulate such a decision could invoke both his constitutional authority to declare the prior designation void and his authority under the act to revoke the designation if it were legal. If he uses both sources of authority, he could issue a proclamation to exercise his authority under the Antiquities Act.

C. Special Questions Regarding Marine Monument Designations

The Supreme Court has upheld or discussed the application of the act to the submerged lands of two different monuments along the coast and inland waterways,⁹⁴ but some issues regarding

⁹² Bryan C. Howard, "US Creates Largest Protected Area in the World, 3x Larger Than California," *National Geographic*, September 26, 2014, <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/09/140924-pacific-remote-islands-marine-monument-expansion-conservation/>.

⁹³ The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, "Fact Sheet: President Obama to Continue Global Leadership in Combatting Climate Change and Protecting Our Ocean by Creating the First Marine National Monument in the Atlantic Ocean," September 15, 2016, <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/15/fact-sheet-president-obama-continue-global-leadership-combatting-climate>. See also the later section discussing unique problems with monument designations of submerged land under the high seas and a citation to Pacific Legal Foundation's recent lawsuit challenging the legality of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument.

⁹⁴ See *United States v. California*, 436 U.S. 32 (1978); and *Alaska v. United States*, 545 U.S. 75 (2005).

these kinds of monuments still remain open, and recent marine monument designations on the high seas raise new questions.

The submerged lands under inland waterways and territorial seas at issue in the two cases mentioned above were owned by the United States when the monuments were designated. That is not true with the areas associated with certain high-sea designations by Presidents Clinton, George W. Bush, and Obama. President Obama's most recent purported designation of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument is located more than 130 to 200 miles off Cape Cod. This approximately 3.14 million acre monument is in the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), but under domestic and international law, America does not own the seabed there or the ocean above it. In March 2017, the Pacific Legal Foundation filed suit on behalf of a coalition of New England fishing organizations challenging the legality of the most recent marine monument, which is the first lawsuit of its kind.⁹⁵

There are two problems with the designation of marine monuments far from shore under the Antiquities Act. First, the seabed at issue is not the type that the United States could have owned or controlled in 1906, in contrast to submerged land of inland waterways, bays, and the territorial seas. The modern EEZ is not only vastly wider than the "territorial waters" of 1906 but also a qualitatively different type of property interest than the United States may have acquired or controlled in an earlier era.⁹⁶ The United States had a sovereign interest in the submerged land near its coast and its territorial waters (then three miles from the coast and now 12 miles), which justifies military and economic control; it could not have and still does not have such a sovereign interest in the area beyond its territorial waters.⁹⁷ Relatedly, even current domestic and international law permits only limited regulation or control of the marine and wind resources in the EEZ outside our territorial waters, and thus, it does not constitute the type of federal government "control" of the relevant land that is required under the Antiquities Act.

In *Treasure Salvors, Inc. v. Unidentified Wrecked and Abandoned Sailing Vessel*,⁹⁸ the Fifth Circuit held that the Antiquities Act does not extend beyond the territorial sea, despite subsequent legislation authorizing federal regulation beyond it. Although the Fifth Circuit acknowledged that the federal government's role in regulating beyond the territorial seas had expanded since 1906, including through the adoption of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act,⁹⁹ none of that conveyed the degree of control that the federal government enjoyed on federally owned lands or federally controlled territories in 1906.¹⁰⁰

When President Clinton proposed to designate the first marine monument beyond American territorial waters, he received some surprising pushback from the Departments of Interior and

⁹⁵ Complaint, Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association, et al. v. Ross, et al., No. 1:17-cv-00406, (D.D.C. Mar. 7, 2017), 2017 WL 897829. The complaint is available at <https://www.pacificlegal.org/document.doc?id=2499+>. The authors each have affiliations with Pacific Legal Foundation. (Todd Gaziano is the Executive Director of its DC Center and is one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs in the case. John Yoo recently joined the board of Pacific Legal Foundation).

⁹⁶ See also Joseph Briggett, Comment, "An Ocean of Executive Authority: Courts Should Limit the President's Antiquities Act Power to Designate Monuments in the Outer Continental Shelf," *Tulane Environmental Law Journal* 22 (2009): 403.

⁹⁷ See Restatement (Third) of Foreign Relations Law § 514 cmt. C.

⁹⁸ 569 F.2d 330 (5th Cir. 1978).

⁹⁹ 43 U.S.C. § 1331 et seq.

¹⁰⁰ See *Treasure Salvors*, 569 F.2d at 337-340.

Commerce, which submitted a joint memorandum to the Justice Department asserting that the EEZ is not “owned or controlled by the Federal Government.” The OLC ultimately disagreed but acknowledged that it was a “closer question” than earlier disputes over the president’s designation authority.¹⁰¹

We believe that the OLC opinion is flimsy and that the attorney general or White House counsel should request a reconsideration. The Clinton-era OLC opinion argues that the EEZ is sufficiently controlled by the federal government because recent presidents have consistently asserted *some* regulatory authority over the area and the United States has greater regulatory authority than any foreign government.¹⁰² Of course, the same is true of many areas that are unquestionably *not* “owned or controlled by the Federal Government.”

Private lands in the United States, for instance, are subject to federal regulation under the Commerce Clause, and no other nation can claim an authority to regulate them. But this does not mean the president has the authority to unilaterally designate privately owned lands as a monument. The Antiquities Act confirms this, stating that the president can receive privately owned lands to include them in a monument, but only through the owner’s voluntary relinquishment of them.¹⁰³ The OLC opinion cannot be squared with this. It also asserts that the EEZ is sufficiently controlled by the federal government because it has the authority to protect threatened or endangered species found there.¹⁰⁴ Yet the same could be said of any privately-owned land under the Endangered Species Act.¹⁰⁵

The OLC opinion has other problems, but its main defect is the failure to effectively grapple with the federal government’s limited power to regulate in the EEZ. Rather than address whether this affects the president’s ability to designate a monument in this area, the opinion instead argues that the regulations imposed within the monument are limited by the customary international law that otherwise applies. However, that cannot be squared with the Antiquities Act. In 1906, land owned or controlled by the federal government described federally owned land and federal territories in which the federal government had almost no limits on its authority and could exercise its full police power. Consistent with that, the Antiquities Act *requires* monuments to be regulated as necessary to effectuate the statute’s purposes. For these reasons, we think the OLC opinion in 2000 is erroneous.

Finally, even if the Antiquities Act does allow monument designations in international submerged lands in the United States’ EEZ, such designations might be valid only for the seabed itself and for the purpose of seabed protection. If so, that would provide additional authority to revoke designations that are primarily designed to protect sea life in international waters and remove other restrictions in ocean habitat, even if they are above seabed features that might be the subject of protection. To be clear, other authority exists to regulate fishing and other activity in the oceans, but it is questionable whether the Antiquities Act provides such authority.

¹⁰¹ See Randolph D. Moss, Mem. Op. for the Solicitor, Dep’t of the Interior; General Counsel, Nat’l Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin.; and General Counsel, Council on Environmental Quality (Sept. 15, 2000), <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/olc/opinions/2000/09/31/op-olc-v024-p0183.pdf>.

¹⁰² See *ibid.*, 196.

¹⁰³ See 54 U.S.C. § 320301.

¹⁰⁴ See Moss, Mem. Op. for the Solicitor, Dep’t of the Interior, 197.

¹⁰⁵ But see *People for the Ethical Treatment of Property Owners v. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv.*, 57 F. Supp. 3d 1337 (D. Utah 2014).

The act's text provides strong support for limiting monuments to landmarks and objects on the land and further limits reservations relating to such monuments to parcels "of land." In particular, the act provides authority for monument designations of only "*landmarks*, historic and prehistoric *structures*, and other *objects* of historic or scientific interest that are situated *upon the land*," and when such monuments are designated, the president may then "reserve as part thereof parcels of *land*" for protection (emphasis supplied). There may be some ancillary power to regulate the air above a monument or some activity in the sea above a marine monument, but it is doubtful that the ocean itself and its living denizens can be designated as part of the monument. It is equally doubtful that a reservation of land can encompass the water column as a matter of presidential discretion under the Antiquities Act.

In *Cappaert*, the Supreme Court upheld some authority to regulate the immediate watershed outside a monument if that is necessary to protect geologic structures and endangered wildlife in the monument grounds, but its holding was based on other federal law governing reserved water rights.¹⁰⁶ The Court did mention the endangered fish that swim in the unmoving pool of the monument at issue, but that reference does not seem necessary to its holding that appurtenant water outside the monument was reserved. The facts of that case are distinguishable in other ways from the unbounded ocean and the unthreatened fish, mammals, and other sea creatures that swim in and out of it.

Yates v. United States, decided by the Supreme Court in 2015,¹⁰⁷ supports one such distinction. If a "fish" is not a "thing" within the meaning of Sarbanes-Oxley law because it is not like the other listed things that should be protected from shredding,¹⁰⁸ then it is even less likely that the ocean and its sea life are objects analogous to "structures" and "landmarks" that are "situated upon the land" within the meaning of the Antiquities Act. And even if the ocean and its sea life are "objects" that could be part of a monument, the Antiquities Act's second step permits the reservation of only the "part thereof" that are "parcels of land" necessary to protect them.

Accordingly, if the ocean and its sea life cannot be designated as part of a monument, or if no reservation "of land" can include them, then their regulation must rely on some other principle of law (analogous to the federal law regarding reserved water rights) and perhaps on proof that such regulation is necessary to protect the landmark, structure, or other objects of historic or scientific interest at issue in the actual monument, such as the seamounts and underwater valleys or mountains. For these reasons, the president should be free to lift erroneous fishing restrictions that are in place solely by reason of a marine monument designation.

IV. The Power to Reduce the Scope of a Reservation Pursuant to a Monument Designation

Almost all commentators, including past opinions from the attorney general and the solicitor of interior, agree that monument boundary adjustments are permissible.¹⁰⁹ Environmentalists often seek large expansions of existing monuments. As a result, several presidents have added vast additional reservations to existing national monuments, including three by President Obama that added millions of acres. Many presidents have made other boundary adjustments, including some

¹⁰⁶ See *Cappaert v. United States*, 426 U.S. 128 (1976) ("when the Federal Government withdraws its land from the public domain and reserves it for a federal purpose, the Government, by implication, reserves appurtenant water then unappropriated to the extent needed to accomplish the purpose of the reservation").

¹⁰⁷ 135 S. Ct. 1074 (2015).

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁹ See *National Monuments*, 60 Interior Dec. 9 (1947), citing *A.G. Cummings*, 39 Op. Att'y Gen. 185 (1938).

modest to large reductions, and the Supreme Court has cited some of these changes in describing the monuments at issue, implicitly assuming they were valid.

If large additions of land have been deemed necessary to protect certain objects, it is doubtful the president could not determine that some large reductions are reasonable or necessary to satisfy the “smallest area” requirement of the act. Modern technology might even help justify a reduction, for example, if smaller boundaries may now be more effectively monitored and protected.

Yet several commentators claim that the question of whether the president could affect significant reductions remains open. No court has ruled on the scope of downward boundary adjustments. Several commenters assert that judicial authority is absent because no president has attempted a significant reduction in the land reserved for a monument, but that is not true. According to the National Park Service:

- President Eisenhower reduced the reservation for the Great Sand Dunes National Monument by 25 percent. (He reduced the original 35,528-acre monument by a net 8,920 acres.)¹¹⁰
- President Truman diminished the reservation for Santa Rosa Island National Monument by almost half. (The original 9,500-acre reservation by Franklin D. Roosevelt was diminished by 4,700 acres.)¹¹¹
- Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge collectively reduced the reservation for Mount Olympus by almost half, the largest by President Wilson in 1915 (cutting 313,280 acres from the original 639,200-acre monument).¹¹²
- The largest percentage reduction was by President Taft in 1912 to his own prior reservation in 1909 for the Navajo National Monument. (His elimination of 320 acres from the original 360-acre reservation was an 89 percent reduction.)¹¹³

There are many other reductions or adjustments to monument boundaries, but the above reductions are significant by any measure.

Scholars who claim that Presidents cannot order significant reductions misread the act’s purposes or rely on policy arguments instead of the statutory text. They often build upon the premise that authority to repeal or rescind a prior designation does not exist, including an uncritical reliance on Attorney General Cummings’ questionable 1938 opinion. Under this reading of the Antiquities Act, monuments may be significantly enlarged by later presidents but never significantly reduced absent an act of Congress.

¹¹⁰ Michael M. Geary, “Chapter 5: Monumental Dunes,” in *Sea of Sand: A History of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve* (Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2016).

¹¹¹ President Harry S. Truman, Proclamation No. 2659 Eliminating Certain Lands from the Santa Rosa Island National Monument and Reserving Them for the Use of the War Department for Military Purposes (Aug. 13, 1945), <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?pid=87038>.

¹¹² Gail H. E. Evans, “Appendix A: A Chronology of the Public Domain,” in *Historic Resource Study* (National Park Service, 1983), https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/olym/hrs/appa.htm.

¹¹³ Hal K. Rothman, “Chapter 2: Founding Navajo National Monument,” in *Navajo National Monument: A Place and Its People: An Administrative History* (National Park Service, 1991), https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/nava/adhi/adhi2e.htm.

For many of the same reasons that we reject a limitation on the president's revocation power, we also question limitations on his power to substantially reduce the size of existing monument reservations. Moreover, there are additional reasons why the president has broad authority to alter the parcels of land reserved under existing monument designations, including logical inferences from textual provisions and the varied reasons prior presidents have given for boundary reductions.

One textual signal in support of boundary adjustments is that the Antiquities Act requires reservations to be "in all cases . . . confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected." There is no temporal limit to this requirement. Some presidential proclamations adjusting the boundaries of existing monuments recognize a continuing duty to review and comply with this command. Even if boundary adjustments to date had all been somewhat minor, which is not the case, it is hard to read into the text a limiting principle that allows large additions but not large reductions.

Another textual hook is the discretionary nature of the president's authority under the Antiquities Act. The relevant language in Section 2 states that it is "in his discretion" whether to declare the national monument. It then states that he "*may* reserve as part thereof parcels of land" to protect the objects at issue (emphasis added). The parcels must, as noted above, be confined to the smallest *area* compatible with the protective purpose, but it is still up to the president's discretion which precise parcels to designate. Apart from reducing the overall size, the next president may determine that a given monument with a patchwork of private inholdings is better protected by concentrating the monument within the federal land that the government owns and controls.¹¹⁴ There is nothing in the act that privileges the original designation and regulations over a later presidential determination.

There are more fundamental questions about how best to manage and protect federal property near national monuments with available resources. The belief that increasing federal regulation is always the best means of protecting something is more ideologically than empirically based, especially when it excludes all other options. Cooperation with state authorities and private property owners who own adjoining land can promote superior land-use decisions, including better protections for such properties. Such consultation and multiparty agreements tend to increase support for the resulting decisions and increase fundamental fairness, since some prior designations have walled in private lands and restricted the reasonable use of such private property.

The evidence surrounding many recent monument designations also suggests that some of the largest geological and scenic monuments were not motivated exclusively or even primarily by a desire to protect an "object" of historic or scientific interest as much as to lock up natural resources from development and use regardless of how limited or temporary the surface disturbances would be. Such actions not only create economic hardship for local communities and injustice to those who may have reasonably depended on the timber, grazing, or mineral resources, but they may actually be counterproductive to the ecological and environmental interests that past presidents claimed to protect. For example, prohibiting fishing in vast grounds

¹¹⁴ See, e.g., *Wilkerson v. Dept. of the Interior*, 634 F. Supp. 1265 (D. Col. 1986), holding that the United States could not completely restrict travel on a preexisting right of way through a national monument.

in the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans where fishermen have engaged in sustainable practices forces more concentrated activity in other areas that may trigger unsustainable impacts.

Such large monument reserves also contribute to an estimated \$13.5 to \$20 billion maintenance backlog on Department of Interior land-management responsibilities¹¹⁵ and deny the federal government any reasonable return on land-use fees and leases. A more careful accounting of federal land policy might lead a president to conclude that some vast monument reserves, under the Antiquities Act and other acts, diffuse attention and resources from higher priorities and contribute to environmental degradation, soil erosion, and other forms of mismanagement of federal property. Apart from all that, increasing public use of vast tracts of federal land should be sufficient grounds for reducing certain prior monument reservations. The facts that underlie one Supreme Court case may prove instructive in defining possible grounds for monument reductions.

In *Alaska v. United States*,¹¹⁶ the Supreme Court affirmed its special master's recommendation regarding the federal versus state ownership of certain submerged lands underwater near Alaska's southeast coast. Some of the land in dispute was under Glacier Bay, which is now a national park. Glacier Bay was first reserved as a national monument by President Coolidge in 1925 and later enlarged by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's in 1939, both pursuant to the Antiquities Act. In describing the relevant lands in question, the Court also noted that President Eisenhower "slightly altered" the monument's boundaries in 1955.

The Supreme Court accepted without discussion that the addition by Roosevelt and the "altered" boundaries by Eisenhower were valid. The monument was made part of the Glacier Bay National Park by an act of Congress in 1980, but since the status of the land in 1959 (when Alaska was made a state) was the critical focus of its analysis, the national park act was not particularly relevant to that determination. While the Court did not discuss it further, the Eisenhower proclamation reduced the size of the Glacier Bay National Monument in three ways without any land swaps or additions to counter those reductions. More importantly, the grounds Eisenhower provided for that reduction are historically interesting and legally relevant.

In Proclamation 3089 on March 31, 1955,¹¹⁷ Eisenhower reduced the size of Glacier Bay National Monument for three different reasons. One ground was that some lands "including several homesteads which were patented prior to the enlargement of the monument [by Roosevelt] are suitable for a limited type of agriculture use and are no longer necessary for the proper care and management of the object of scientific interest on the lands within the monument." Although Proclamation 3089 provides no further explanation of this exclusion, it is fair to read it as concluding that the original inclusion of this land was mistaken and, perhaps as important, that the lands were *no longer* necessary for the proper care of the objects of scientific interest in the monument.

The second reduction in the size of Glacier Bay National Monument was based squarely on Eisenhower's conclusion that such lands should have been included in Tongass National Forest

¹¹⁵ Hearing before the Subcomm. on the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies of the H. Committee on Appropriations, (2001) (statement of Anu K. Mittal and Frank Rusco), <http://www.gao.gov/assets/130/125531.pdf>.

¹¹⁶ 545 U.S. 75 (2005).

¹¹⁷ President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Proclamation No. 3089—Excluding Certain Lands from the Glacier Bay National Monument and Adding a Portion Thereof to the Tongass National Forest (Mar. 31, 1955), <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=107264>.

instead of the national monument in 1939, when Roosevelt enlarged it, “and such lands are suitable for national-forest purposes.” Eisenhower determined that the earlier inclusion of these lands in the monument was in error, since their exclusion from the forest was “erroneous.” He did not specifically declare that they were “no longer necessary” to the proper care of the objects of scientific interest in the Glacier Bay National Monument, but he must have concluded they were never necessary to be included or that the mistaken inclusion in 1939 was sufficient to exclude them in 1955.

The third reduction (the first mentioned in the proclamation) was because certain lands are “now being used as an airfield for national-defense purposes and are no longer *suitable* for national-monument purposes” (emphasis supplied). How land reserved in a national monument became a military airfield is not explained. In some respects, this may be the most interesting exclusion of all. Whether the earlier use of the land for an airfield was legal or not, Eisenhower asserted the authority to declare a higher government purpose for federal land that was part of a national monument and, by proclamation, to remove it from the national monument reservation. Note also that Eisenhower states that the airfield land was no longer *suitable* for inclusion in the national monument *because it was an airfield*, not that the land was otherwise unsuitable for inclusion in the monument. Would the same reasoning apply if it were not yet an airfield?

And while Eisenhower’s total reductions in the size of Glacier Bay National Monument were not great relative to the monument’s overall size, they were not trivial either. According to the National Park Service, the reductions total more than 4,100 acres of submerged land and 24,900 acres of other land.¹¹⁸ Most national monuments before 1955 did not even reach 29,000 acres. Moreover, some of President Eisenhower’s other monument reductions constituted a larger proportion of the original size of the monument (e.g., Great Sand Dunes), and earlier presidential reductions were even greater, as discussed above.

Attempts to argue from its perambulatory purposes that the Antiquities Act does not authorize significant reductions are as conclusory as Cummings’ analysis of the revocation issue. Reasoning from selective, broad protective purposes can always yield the desired result. We reach the opposite conclusion based on the text discussed above and consideration of all the act’s purposes, the original compromises the act incorporated, and separation of powers principles.

Subsequent congressional land-management statutes do not change the Antiquities Act, but they cut sharply against the policy argument that the act’s use is necessary to promptly secure land that is otherwise prone to looting or harmful development. Indeed, these more recent laws provide the same or superior protection without undermining Congress’ primary role in federal land-use decisions. Of special note, the secretary of interior now has statutory authority to make emergency withdrawals of federal land with few limitations (and none relating to size), including land not under his department’s jurisdiction, which expire no later than three years after they are withdrawn.¹¹⁹

After the authority granted in 1978, one can no longer truthfully justify the president’s power to lock up land from reasonable public uses in perpetuity as an “emergency” measure to stop

¹¹⁸ Theodore Catton, “Chapter VII: Private Interests and A Second Boundary,” in *Land Reborn: A History of Administration and Visitor Use in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve* (Anchorage, AL: National Park Service, 1995), https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/glba/adhi/chap7.htm.

¹¹⁹ 43 U.S.C. §§ 1714(e) and 1714(i).

imminent harm, no matter how often this claim is made. Yet monument declarations do have one powerful, immediate effect: They stop or inhibit ongoing congressional debate and potential compromise over the land at issue. Congress has withdrawn many federal lands for heightened protection in specific laws that balance the interests of multiple stakeholders. Defenders of permanent, unalterable national monuments regularly implore the president to preempt or interfere with Congress' deliberations. Even so, they cannot reasonably argue that presidential authority under the act can work only in one direction and that the interest of the states and other citizens cannot be reconsidered.

If the president can revoke prior monuments altogether, there is no strong argument that he lacks a lesser power to significantly reduce the land withdrawn for one. But even if the president lacks the power to revoke a monument, past practice includes proclamations that reduced some monuments to a fraction of their current size, such as President Taft's 89 percent reduction of the Navajo Nation Monument. Moreover, we think the courts are more likely to uphold significant reductions if the president could credibly include in his determination that the original designation was inappropriately large relative to the object to be protected or has become so with changed circumstances.

It would bolster his position if the president includes any existing site-specific justifications for reducing the particular monument's land reservation. For example, a president might issue a proclamation determining that limited resources prevent proper management of the largest national monuments, that other authority now exists for the excluded parcels to be regulated and managed (including perhaps a management plan for them), that changed technology or other changed circumstances allow a smaller area to be designated to protect the objects in question, or that other changed circumstances warrant such reductions.

The president's authority to significantly reduce the size of an existing monument would be less certain if the Supreme Court or other appellate court ruled that he lacked a general discretionary authority to revoke prior monument designations. But even then, we think the president would retain the authority, if not the duty, to reduce the size of existing monuments that were unreasonably large relative to the objects being preserved or have become illegally large with changed circumstances. And such determinations should be entitled to the same or similar respect as the original reservations.

As with a complete revocation, someone would have to establish standing to sue to overturn a proclamation reducing the size of a monument, and that might be difficult in many cases. And even if standing is established, we think the challenger would have a significant burden to prove in order to prevail. If the challenge were based on a factual determination, such a challenger might have to prove an abuse of discretion to overcome the president's more recent determinations under the act, or the courts might hold that some determinations under the act are textually committed to the president's absolute discretion (absent corruption or a procedural failure) and not subject to judicial review.

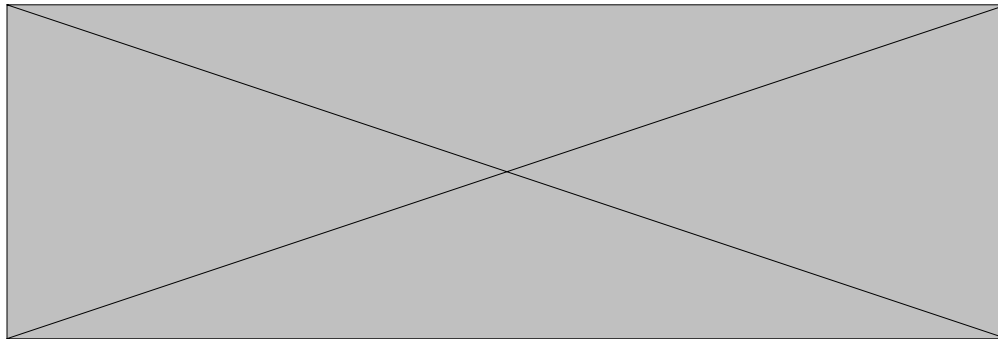
Conclusion

We have argued that the president retains a general discretionary power to revoke prior monument designations pursuant to the Antiquities Act. It is a general principle of government that the authority to execute a discretionary power includes the authority to reverse the exercise

of that power. This power is at its height when prior designations were made illegally or in contravention of the act's mandate that designations be reasonable in size.

Moreover, the purpose of the act supports the president in his ability to respond to new factual determinations or changes in circumstance that require modification of a monument's boundaries. The plain language of the act, its legislative purpose, and the practice of past presidents all support this conclusion. Most importantly, it is compelled by the constitutional principle of separation of powers. If presidents choose not to protect their policies through Congress' bicameral process, they leave those policies vulnerable to their successors by constitutional design.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-17T14:18:25-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: "Finally!" Secretary Zinke welcomes confirmation of Reclamation Nominee
Received: 2017-11-17T14:19:08-05:00



Date: November 17, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

"Finally!" Secretary Zinke welcomes confirmation of Reclamation Nominee

WASHINGTON Yesterday, the U.S. Senate confirmed Brenda Burman as the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner. She is the first woman to ever lead the Bureau.

"Finally! After more than 142 days, I'm excited to welcome Brenda Burman to lead the Bureau of Reclamation," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "Brenda is a veteran of the Bureau and her extensive experience on water projects across the country will be an incredible asset for the Department. After senseless and unprecedented hold-ups in the Senate, we can finally move forward with key water projects across the country."

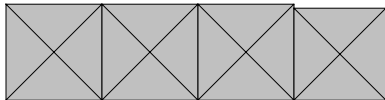
"I am deeply honored for the opportunity to lead this organization," **said Brenda Burman**. "The employees of Reclamation are dedicated to working through the most difficult water issues and managing water in the West. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke, the Administration, and our many partners, contractors, and customers to solve our most pressing water issues."

The Bureau of Reclamation is a contemporary water management agency and the largest wholesale provider of water in the country. It delivers water to more than 31 million people and provides one out of five western farmers with irrigation water for farmland that produces much of the nation's produce. Reclamation is also the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western United States.

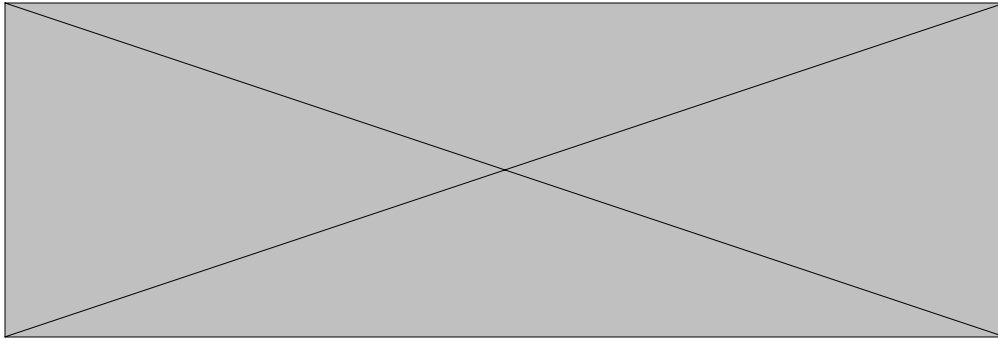
Brenda Burman is the first-ever female to lead the Bureau. From 2006 to 2008, she served as Reclamation's Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Deputy Assistant Secretary. Burman comes to Interior after working as the Director of Water Policy for Arizona's Salt River Project. Prior to that, she worked for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, The Nature Conservancy, and U.S. Senator Jon Kyl. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arizona College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from Kenyon College.

Six nominees still await confirmation, including Joe Balash for Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Susan Combs for Assistant Secretary of Policy, Management, & Budget, Ryan Nelson for Solicitor, newly nominated Tim Petty for Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Tara Sweeney for Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, and Steven Gardner for Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. Many Trump Administration nominations are awaiting Senate confirmation, and these nominees have been forced to wait significantly longer than either the Obama or Bush Administration's first-term nominees. Secretary Zinke recently wrote a letter to both Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer urging them to expedite the confirmations of DOI nominees.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-17T14:20:26-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: DOI Announces Approval of Transmission Line Project in Oregon and Idaho
Received: 2017-11-17T14:21:34-05:00



Date: November 17, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

DOI Announces Approval of Transmission Line Project in Oregon and Idaho

Boardman to Hemingway Project will create jobs and provide infrastructure to develop America's energy resources

PORTLAND, Ore. In a move that will improve the nation's energy infrastructure, create nearly 500 jobs and boost local economies, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced today that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has signed a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project (B2H Project). The B2H Project will provide additional electrical capacity between the Pacific Northwest and the Intermountain West regions.

The B2H Project, which will have a three-year development phase, will alleviate existing transmission constraints by providing sufficient electrical capacity to meet present and forecasted customer needs. The total capital expenditure for the B2H Project is approximately \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion.

“The Boardman to Hemingway Project is a Trump Administration priority focusing on infrastructure needs that support America’s energy independence,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “Today’s decision is the result of extensive public involvement and will support the environmentally responsible development of resources to meet the needs of communities in Idaho, Oregon, and the surrounding region.”

The ROD allows the BLM to grant a right-of-way to Idaho Power Company for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the B2H Project on BLM-administered land. Located in eastern Oregon and southwestern Idaho, the approved route will measure approximately 300 miles long

when constructed. The overhead electrical line will be extra-high-voltage (500 kilovolts) and will include an alternating-current transmission system. Because the new line will have increased transmission capacity, it will allow greater use of intermittent sources of renewable energy, such as wind and solar, to connect to the grid.

“This project will help stabilize the power grid in the Northwest, while creating jobs and carrying low-cost energy to the families and businesses who need it,” **said Katherine MacGregor, acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.** “It is a great example of the Administration’s America First Energy Plan, which addresses all forms of domestic energy production.”

“It’s great to finally have an administration that recognizes the importance of working with states like Idaho to get important things done,” **said Idaho Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter.** “I’m pleased that our federal partners are moving toward making this important infrastructure upgrade a reality. Meeting the electric transmission needs of our growing economy and population will require continued collaboration, and I’m confident that the BLM and Department of the Interior under President Trump will keep providing that kind of constructive leadership.”

“BLM’s approval of this interstate transmission line is a long overdue decision that will bolster our regional infrastructure and ensure that energy is delivered efficiently and reliably to customers,” **said Idaho Senator Mike Crapo.** “This type of project is the result of a collaboration between multiple stakeholders to move to meet the energy demands of the region.”

“The B2H Project will create jobs, provide for Idaho's energy needs and promote the region's energy infrastructure moving forward,” **said Senator James Risch.** “I applaud the BLM for issuing their Record of Decision which is a critical step forward for the B2H Project.”

“The Boardman to Hemingway project is critically important to Idaho,” **said Congressman Mike Simpson.** “Providing the infrastructure to deliver affordable and reliable energy will benefit Idahoans and others in the West. I applaud BLM for prioritizing this important work.”

The B2H Project will add approximately 1,000 megawatts of much needed bi-directional power capacity between the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West regions. The additional capacity will help improve the regions’ ability to transmit low-cost energy from a variety of generation sources to serve residences, farms, businesses, and other customers throughout the region.

The 293.4-mile approved route will run across 100.3 miles of Federal land (managed by the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Department of Defense), 190.2 miles of private land, and 2.9 miles of state lands.

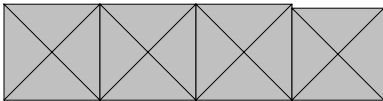
The B2H Project is a national-level priority and an important component of the President’s all-of-the-above-energy strategy that includes encouraging projects that help to strengthen America’s energy infrastructure. The transmission line connects the northern terminus, the Longhorn Substation, a substation planned by Bonneville Power Administration about four miles east of the city of Boardman in Morrow County, Oregon, to the existing Hemingway Substation, near the city of Melba in Owyhee County, Idaho. Construction of the B2H Project is targeted to start in 2021 and will take approximately two to three years once all final permits are acquired. The

B2H Project includes construction of the new transmission line, access roads and gates, and communication regeneration sites. The project also includes the removal or rerouting of about eight miles of older transmission lines.

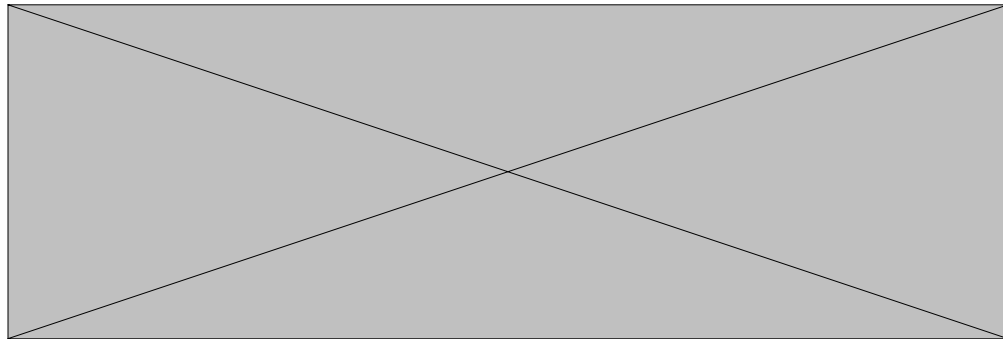
The selected route approved by the ROD is the Agency Preferred Alternative identified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Land-use Plan Amendments, which published in the Federal Register on November 28, 2016. The ROD represents the culmination of a comprehensive planning process, including a Community Advisory Process conducted by the Idaho Power Company that further refined the routing options. Comments received after public scoping in 2010 further refined routing and added variations.

The final documents and maps showing the Agency Preferred Alternative are available at: <http://bit.ly/2hRuQfS>.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-17T21:25:52-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Statement from Secretary Ryan Zinke on the Importing of Elephant Trophies
Received: 2017-11-17T21:26:40-05:00



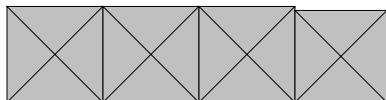
Date: November 17, 2017
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Statement from Secretary Ryan Zinke on the Importing of Elephant Trophies

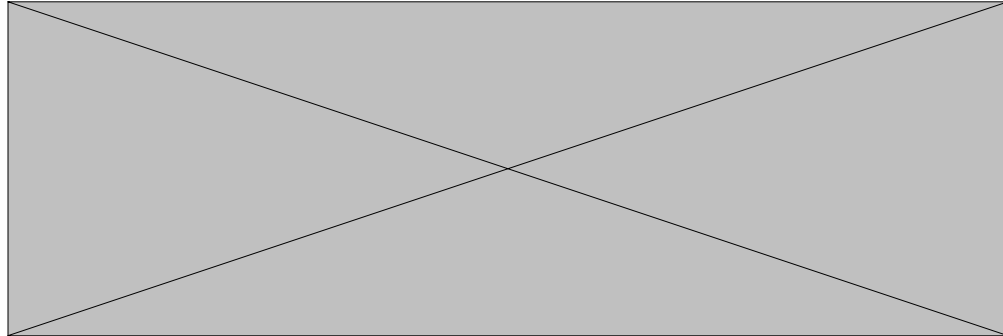
WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke issued the following statement on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's recent decision to allow the import of elephant hunting trophies from two African nations.

"President Trump and I have talked and both believe that conservation and healthy herds are critical. As a result, in a manner compliant with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, the issuing of permits is being put on hold as the decision is being reviewed."

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-20T17:13:54-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: National Parks to reopen in U.S. Virgin Islands following hurricanes
Received: 2017-11-20T17:14:57-05:00



Date: November 20, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

National Parks to reopen in U.S. Virgin Islands following hurricanes *USVI National Parks are top tourist destinations, Visitors spent in \$70M for USVI in 2016*

WASHINGTON Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp announced the reopening of Christiansted National Historic Site and Buck Island Reef National Monument on the island of St. Croix and Trunk Bay Beach at Virgin Islands National Park on the island of St. John. The National Park Service is an important economic engine in the USVI, attracting more than a half a million visitors in 2016 and supporting 900 jobs in the community. Visitors spent \$70 million and helped support \$34 million in labor and more than \$90 million in economic output.

"I couldn't be more proud of the hard work of National Park Service staff, volunteers, and their partners in the Virgin Islands. Their commitment to the park and to the community is inspiring. I've heard many stories of staff tending to the needs of the park and their neighbors before even taking care of themselves," **said Secretary Zinke.** "We have a long way to go, but every day we make progress toward getting these parks fully functional to visitors and back to providing important economic support to these communities as they return to normal."

"The reopening of Buck Island Reef National Monument, Trunk Bay Beach, and Christiansted National Historic Site represents another significant milestone in the recovery of the U.S. Virgin Islands," **Governor Kenneth E. Mapp said.** "These are, of course, premiere destinations for visitors, but are also significant recreation areas for Virgin Islanders - many of whom traditionally celebrate Thanksgiving at our beaches. Thanks to the Department of Interior, the

National Park and all the Virgin Islanders that continue to work on facilitating our efforts to rebuild."

"National parks such as Christiansted National Historic Site, Buck Island Reef National Monument on St. Croix and Trunk Bay Beach at Virgin Islands National Park on St. John protect some of the best of our natural heritage. Together with other protected areas, they attract millions of visitors annually and help to protect the U.S. Virgin Islands' unique wildlife by acting as a refuge for threatened species," **said Delegate Stacey Plaskett**. "Although their primary purpose is the protection of biodiversity, National Parks also deliver other invaluable economic, social, cultural, and health benefits to our territory's residents. Future generations deserved the right to see these natural values intact and protected as we do today."

The National Park Service protects and preserves significant historic sites, important ecosystems, and popular beaches that are vital to the tourism economy in the Virgin Islands. For example, visitors to Virgin Islands National Park spent \$70 million in 2016.

Christiansted National Historic Site demonstrates the architectural, economic, and political influence of 18th century Europe like no other place in the Caribbean. The 19,015-acre Buck Island Reef National Monument includes the 176-acre island consisting of tropical dry forest and 18,839 acres of submerged lands and coral reefs.

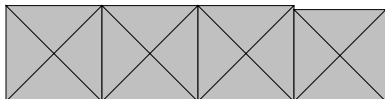
With the opening of Trunk Bay Beach, Virgin Islands National Park now has three popular tourist destinations ready to receive visitors. Honeymoon and Hawksnest beaches reopened on November 13. Water sports equipment rental is currently available at Honeymoon Beach and equipment rental will resume at Trunk Bay Beach today. Taxi service, essential to getting visitors to park beaches, has also resumed.

To reopen Trunk Bay Beach, the National Park Service stabilized numerous structures and removed fallen trees and more than 480 cubic yards of debris. Dive teams removed underwater debris from swimming areas, however visitors are encouraged to use caution when swimming in all areas of Virgin Islands National Park.

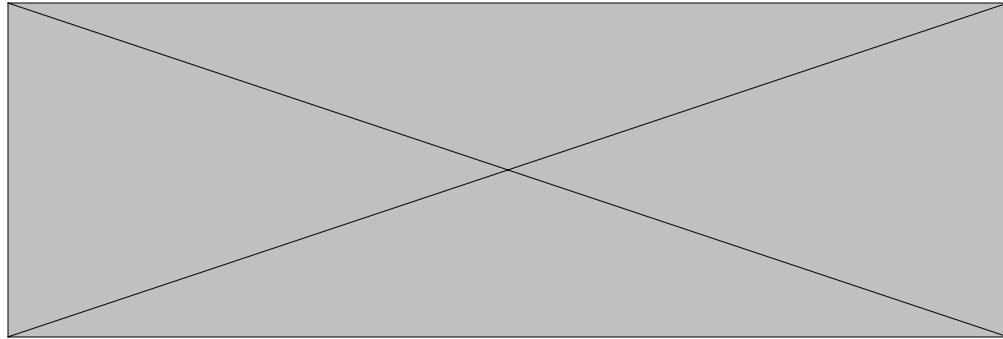
While these sites are open to visitors, many services and features at NPS sites across the islands remain closed or inaccessible while cleanup continues.

For continued updates on the status of national park areas in the Caribbean and elsewhere that have been affected by hurricanes and severe weather please visit: <http://go.nps.gov/hurricanes>.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-21T16:24:35-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: San Juan National Historic Site in Puerto Rico Reopening Areas to Visitors
Received: 2017-11-21T16:25:25-05:00



Date: November 21, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

San Juan National Historic Site in Puerto Rico Reopening Areas to Visitors

Iconic historic sites generate tourism revenue for area

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and the National Park Service (NPS) today announced that the NPS has resumed normal operations and public tours at the visitor center and Castillo San Cristóbal area of San Juan National Historic Site. Castillo San Felipe del Morro is expected to reopen as early as next week. The National Park Service is an important tourism factor in Puerto Rico, generating more than \$100 million in economic activity every year for the island. In 2016, more than 1.4 million people visited NPS sites in Puerto Rico, spurring more than \$85 million in visitor spending. The 1,065 jobs the park visitors supported created more than a \$100 million in economic output and \$40 million in income.

On September 20, Category 5 Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico causing damage to the historic fortifications at San Juan National Historic Site and forcing closures at the site. Since that time the NPS has been working to repair and restore the site and to ensure that facilities are safe for visitors and employees.

“For over 400 years, Castillo San Felipe del Morro has stood as guardian and symbol of Puerto Rico’s heritage, and it’s also a major tourism attraction for visitors from all over the world” **said Secretary Zinke**. “I’m incredibly proud of the National Park Service and entire Interior family who have been working nonstop to reopen this important cultural and tourism attraction. Part of rebuilding communities means rebuilding revenue streams so folks can get back to work, earn a living, and care for their families. The National Park Service will continue to work closely with the people of Puerto Rico to restore life into this vibrant community.”

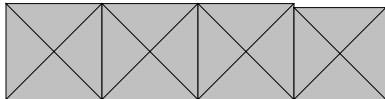
The governor of Puerto Rico, Ricardo Rosselló, said,"with the announcement of the reopening of these spaces we show that we are en route to the recovery of our Island. The San Cristóbal Castle and San Felipe del Morro Castle are part of the historical and cultural heritage of Puerto Rico, essential spaces to continue promoting tourism as part of our economy. We invite all Puerto Ricans and visitors to continue enjoying the national historic sites of our Island."

San Juan National Historic Site is comprised of Castillo San Felipe del Morro, Castillo San Cristóbal, Fort San Juan de La Cruz (El Cañuelo), La Puerta de San Juan and most of the city wall. The park is open every day from 9:00 a.m to 6:00 p.m, except on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

It is anticipated that Castillo San Felipe del Morro will open on Monday, November 27, 2017. On Saturday, December 2, 2017, the park is planning to host a community reopening event for the public.

For a complete listing of times and dates for activities at San Juan National Historic Site, follow the park on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SanJuanNPS/> or visit the park's website <http://www.nps.gov/saju/planyourvisit/guidedtours.htm>.

###



To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Mac Zimmerman
Sent: 2017-11-21T16:26:17-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Automatic reply: San Juan National Historic Site in Puerto Rico Reopening Areas to Visitors
Received: 2017-11-21T16:26:22-05:00

Thank you for your email.

I am out of the office through Saturday for the Thanksgiving holiday someplace where mobile coverage and data are spotty. If you need to reach me and cant get me on email, the land line number is 480 419 7693.

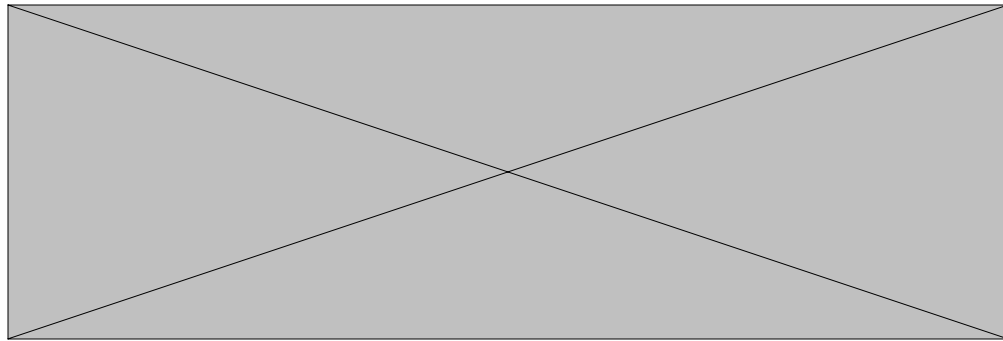
Thanks!

Mac

To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Chrissy Harbin
Sent: 2017-11-21T16:26:18-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Automatic reply: San Juan National Historic Site in Puerto Rico Reopening Areas to Visitors
Received: 2017-11-21T16:26:38-05:00

Many thanks for reaching out. I am traveling for the Thanksgiving holiday and will have intermittent access to email. If your matter is urgent, please call or text me at 202 560 1691. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Chrissy

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-29T20:08:33-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: News Release: Interior Executes Water Rights Settlement Agreement with Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians
Received: 2017-11-29T20:09:19-05:00
11.29.2017 - Interior Executes Water Rights Settlement Agreement with Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians.pdf



Date: November 29, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Executes Water Rights Settlement Agreement with Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Mark Macarro, Chairman of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians today signed the Pechanga Water Rights Settlement Agreement (Agreement), formally executing a Congressionally authorized pact that protects the Pechanga Band's access to groundwater in the region and provides the tribe with more than \$30 million in federal funding to pay for water storage projects.

The Agreement quantifies the water rights claims for the Pechanga Band in Southern California's Temecula Valley, which had been pending in an adjudication dating back to the 1950s; resolves potential liability for both the United States and other parties; and establishes a cooperative and efficient water management regime involving Pechanga and local agencies.

"The Federal Government has a critical responsibility to uphold our trust responsibilities, especially Tribal water rights," **Secretary Zinke said**. "This is why we are continuing to work on Indian Water Settlements with Tribes, States, and all water users to ensure there is certainty for all and an opportunity for economic development in local communities. As a former State Senator and Congressman who helped usher the Blackfeet compact through to fruition, I understand all too well the hard work and enormous struggle that goes into making these important water rights settlements possible. I congratulate all of you for your perseverance, dedication, and commitment to making this settlements happen."

“The Pechanga Band has tirelessly pursued the quantification of its water rights and, through negotiations, engaged its neighbors in a multiyear process of building mutual trust and understanding,” **said Pechanga Chairman Macarro.** “Generations of tribal leaders have fought from the courts to Capitol Hill to protect this vital resource for future generations. This settlement agreement benefits all of the parties by securing adequate water supplies for the Pechanga Band and its members and encouraging cooperative water resources management among all of the parties.”

Zinke commended the congressional sponsors of the Settlement Act legislation, saying they “fought to bring these settlements across the finish line.” The agreement introduced by Rep. Ken Calvert, (R-Corona) settles competing claims involving the Rancho California Water District and the Eastern Municipal Water District, which both draw from the large aquifer in the region that stretches 750 square miles from Southwest Riverside County to north San Diego County .

“For the tribe, local community, and the many federal employees who have contributed to these settlements, seeing these agreements signed is the culmination of years of dedication and hard work. I think we all recognize that this is just the start of the journey towards settlement finality,” **Zinke said.**

“The Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, as well as all of the parties to this settlement, deserve to have some certainty on the future of their water supply,” **Rep. Calvert said.** “I’m grateful we have been able to enact the settlement and ensure all of the stakeholders in the Santa Margarita River Watershed can better shape their future.”

Interior is in the initial stages of implementing the Settlement Act, which was enacted as part of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (P.L. 114-322) in 2016. The Departments of Justice and Interior have an established protocol for processing settlement agreements for execution.

The Act and Agreement establishes the Pechanga Settlement Fund and authorizes the appropriation of about \$3 million to be deposited into the fund to construct a storage pond. The legislation also authorizes the appropriation of about \$26 million, with about \$4 million in construction overrun costs, to build interim and permanent capacity for water storage, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Also attending today’s event were Pechanga Council Members, including Catalina R. Chacon; Robert Munoa; Russell Murphy; Marc Luker; Raymond Basquez Jr. and Michael Vasquez. Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhard and Associate Deputy Secretary Jim Cason also joined the ceremony.

Water resources and management of scarce water supplies are central concerns in the Western states. Additionally, in many parts of the West, water resources are now either fully appropriated or over-appropriated. These situations underscore the need for cooperative management of water supplies, and highlight the important role that Indian water rights settlements can play in the West.

###



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
**U.S. Department
of the Interior**

www.doi.gov

News Release

Date: November 29, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Executes Water Rights Settlement Agreement with Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Mark Macarro, Chairman of the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians today signed the Pechanga Water Rights Settlement Agreement (Agreement), formally executing a Congressionally authorized pact that protects the Pechanga Band's access to groundwater in the region and provides the tribe with more than \$30 million in federal funding to pay for water storage projects.

The Agreement quantifies the water rights claims for the Pechanga Band in Southern California's Temecula Valley, which had been pending in an adjudication dating back to the 1950s; resolves potential liability for both the United States and other parties; and establishes a cooperative and efficient water management regime involving Pechanga and local agencies.

"The Federal Government has a critical responsibility to uphold our trust responsibilities, especially Tribal water rights," **Secretary Zinke said**. "This is why we are continuing to work on Indian Water Settlements with Tribes, States, and all water users to ensure there is certainty for all and an opportunity for economic development in local communities. As a former State Senator and Congressman who helped usher the Blackfeet compact through to fruition, I understand all too well the hard work and enormous struggle that goes into making these important water rights settlements possible. I congratulate all of you for your perseverance, dedication, and commitment to making this settlements happen."

"The Pechanga Band has tirelessly pursued the quantification of its water rights and, through negotiations, engaged its neighbors in a multiyear process of building mutual trust and understanding," **said Pechanga Chairman Macarro**. "Generations of tribal leaders have fought from the courts to Capitol Hill to protect this vital resource for future generations. This settlement agreement benefits all of the parties by securing adequate water supplies for the Pechanga Band and its members and encouraging cooperative water resources management among all of the parties."

Zinke commended the congressional sponsors of the Settlement Act legislation, saying they “fought to bring these settlements across the finish line.” The agreement introduced by Rep. Ken Calvert, (R-Corona) settles competing claims involving the Rancho California Water District and the Eastern Municipal Water District, which both draw from the large aquifer in the region that stretches 750 square miles from Southwest Riverside County to north San Diego County .

“For the tribe, local community, and the many federal employees who have contributed to these settlements, seeing these agreements signed is the culmination of years of dedication and hard work. I think we all recognize that this is just the start of the journey towards settlement finality,” **Zinke said.**

“The Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, as well as all of the parties to this settlement, deserve to have some certainty on the future of their water supply,” **Rep. Calvert said.** “I’m grateful we have been able to enact the settlement and ensure all of the stakeholders in the Santa Margarita River Watershed can better shape their future.”

Interior is in the initial stages of implementing the Settlement Act, which was enacted as part of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (P.L. 114-322) in 2016. The Departments of Justice and Interior have an established protocol for processing settlement agreements for execution.

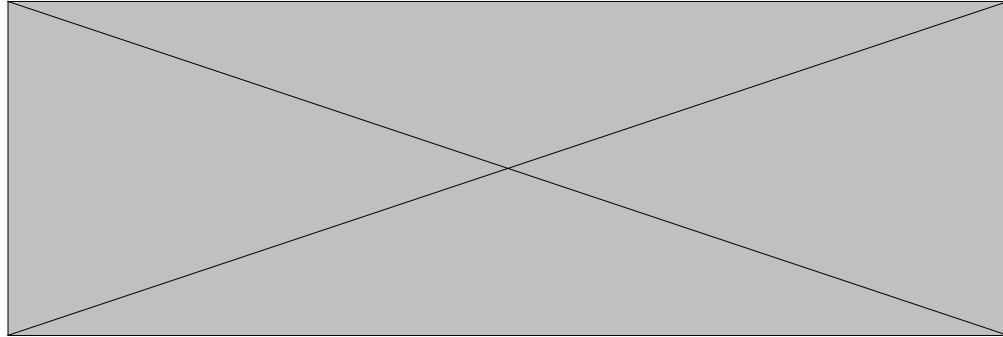
The Act and Agreement establishes the Pechanga Settlement Fund and authorizes the appropriation of about \$3 million to be deposited into the fund to construct a storage pond. The legislation also authorizes the appropriation of about \$26 million, with about \$4 million in construction overrun costs, to build interim and permanent capacity for water storage, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Also attending today’s event were Pechanga Council Members, including Catalina R. Chacon; Robert Munoa; Russell Murphy; Marc Luker; Raymond Basquez Jr. and Michael Vasquez. Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhard and Associate Deputy Secretary Jim Cason also joined the ceremony.

Water resources and management of scarce water supplies are central concerns in the Western states. Additionally, in many parts of the West, water resources are now either fully appropriated or over-appropriated. These situations underscore the need for cooperative management of water supplies, and highlight the important role that Indian water rights settlements can play in the West.

###

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-30T13:59:37-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Wyoming Receives \$669 Million in Interior Department Energy Disbursements in FY2017, Increase of \$4.7 Million from Previous Year
Received: 2017-11-30T14:00:10-05:00



Date: November 30, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Wyoming Receives \$669 Million in Interior Department Energy Disbursements in FY2017, Increase of \$4.7 Million from Previous Year

State sees substantial financial increase in energy disbursements as Trump Administration pushes for American energy dominance

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced today that Wyoming's energy and minerals production disbursements, through the Interior Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), totaled \$669,010,220.24 in Fiscal Year 2017 (FY 2017). This represents an increase of \$4,697,848.80 from the previous year's total. The funds are derived from energy and minerals produced on Federal and Indian lands, as well as U.S. offshore areas.

"Under President Trump's American Energy Dominance agenda, we've increased energy funds by a billion dollars nationally, and by almost five million in Wyoming in our first year alone. That money goes right back to communities for things like public works projects, educational improvements, conservation and parks, and infrastructure upgrades," **Secretary Zinke said**. "Energy is about more than just electricity and gas, it's about a strong economy and strong communities. As the administration continues to cut red tape and end the over-regulation of responsible energy development, we will be able to direct more funds to local communities and create more good-paying American jobs."

"The last Administration boasted about increased energy development, but neglected to mention

that most of it was on private land,” **Senator Michael B. Enzi said.** “This increased energy production on federal land is a welcome development in my state. It has a huge positive impact on Wyomingites, but benefits our whole country and restores American energy dominance.”

“I am encouraged by the increase in energy revenue to Wyoming and states throughout the country,” **said Senator John Barrasso.** “I look forward to continuing to work with the administration to reduce bureaucratic red-tape that is unnecessarily limiting U.S. energy production. Energy production is a key driver for Wyoming’s economy and increasing revenues for the state reflects an improving industry.”

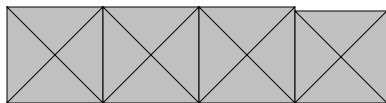
During FY2017, ONRR disbursements totaled \$7.11 billion overall, an increase of nearly \$1 billion from the previous year. ONRR disbursed nearly \$1.44 billion of the FY 2017 energy revenues to 36 states, as their cumulative share of revenues collected from oil, gas, and mineral production on Federal lands within their borders and from offshore oil and gas tracts in Federal waters adjacent to their shores. Wyoming ranked first in the country for FY 2017 receipts. A complete list of states receiving revenues through FY 2017 is available on the Natural Resources Revenue Data portal located at <https://revenuedata.doi.gov/>.

The \$7.11 billion disbursed in FY 2017 compares to the \$6.23 billion the Department disbursed in FY 2016. The increase in disbursements is primarily attributed to a larger number of lease sales totaling higher acreage, efforts to streamline permitting and reduce regulatory burdens, and higher oil and gas prices experienced during the year as the economy and exports have continued to expand.

All Federal, non-renewable energy revenues are collected, accounted for, analyzed, audited, and disbursed by ONRR from energy and mineral leases and other monies owed for the use of public resources on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf and onshore Federal and American Indian lands. Since 1982, ONRR has disbursed more than \$294 billion in mineral leasing revenues. ONRR makes most disbursements on a monthly basis from the royalties, rents and bonuses it collects from energy and mineral companies operating on federal lands and waters.

The FY 2017 disbursement data is scheduled to be published on the Natural Resources Revenue Data portal located at <https://revenuedata.doi.gov/> on November 30, 2017.

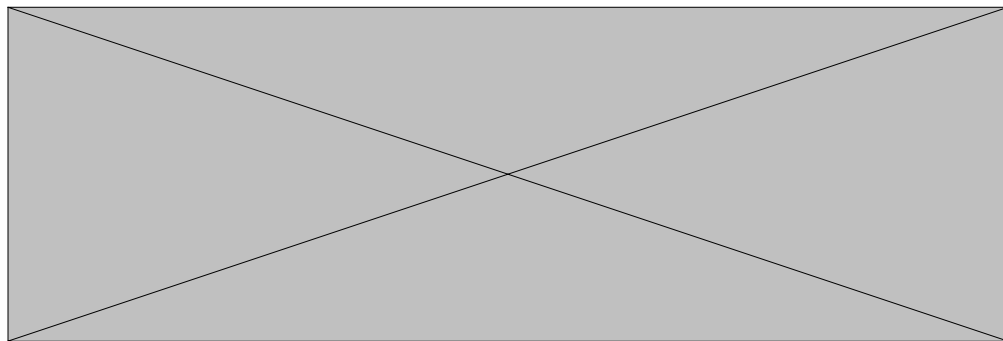
###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-30T14:51:13-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Department FY2017 Energy Disbursements Grow by \$1 Billion to \$7.11 Billion Under President Trump
Received: 2017-11-30T14:51:47-05:00

****This is the NATIONAL Press Release****

The one previously sent was only state specific..



Date: November 30, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Department FY2017 Energy Disbursements Grow by \$1 Billion to \$7.11 Billion Under President Trump
Substantial increase in LWCF funds for conservation

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced today that Interior's Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) disbursements from energy and minerals production on Federal and American Indian lands and offshore areas totaled \$7.11 billion in Fiscal Year 2017, an increase of nearly \$1 billion over the previous year. States received \$1.44 billion, Tribal governments and individual mineral rights owners received nearly \$676 million, and \$950 million went toward the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which invests in outdoor recreation opportunities and conservation in America's state and local parks. The funds are derived from energy and minerals production on Federal and Indian lands and U.S. offshore areas. These revenues are a critical source of non-tax funding.

“Under President Trump’s American Energy Dominance agenda, we’ve increased energy funds by a billion dollars in our first year alone. That money goes right back to communities for things like public works projects, educational improvements, conservation and parks, and infrastructure

upgrades,” **Secretary Zinke said.** “Energy is about more than just electricity and gas, it’s about a strong economy and strong communities. As the administration continues to cut red tape and end the overregulation of responsible energy development, we will be able to direct more funds to local communities and create more good-paying American jobs.”

"These additional revenues to states, including my home state of Utah, are just the beginning. They make a big difference they pay for schools and public services. This critical stream of revenue supports rural communities across the country. I hope to see steady increases in these revenues as we continue to work with the administration to unlock American’s energy potential,” **Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) said.**

ONRR disbursed nearly \$1.44 billion of the FY 2017 energy revenues to 36 states, as their cumulative share of revenues collected from oil, gas, and mineral production on Federal lands within their borders and from offshore oil and gas tracts in Federal waters adjacent to their shores. The top states receiving FY 2017 revenues were:

- **Wyoming** \$669 million Increase of \$4.7 million
- **New Mexico** \$455 million Increase of \$86.5 million
- **Colorado** \$92 million Increase of \$8.1 million
- **Utah** \$73.5 million Increase of \$5.5 million
- **North Dakota** \$39.9 million Increase of \$7.4 million

Louisiana, and Montana also saw large increases in disbursements at \$1.3 million and \$1.02 million increase respectively. A complete list of states receiving revenues through FY 2017 is available on the Natural Resources Revenue Data portal located at <https://revenuedata.doi.gov/>.

In addition to state disbursements, \$675.8 million was disbursed to American Indian tribes and individual Indian mineral owners; \$1.14 billion to the Reclamation Fund; \$959 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); \$150 million to the Historic Preservation Fund; and the remaining \$2.5 billion to the U.S. Treasury.

The revenues disbursed to the 34 Federally-recognized American Indian tribes and nearly 35,000 individual Indian mineral owners represents 100 percent of the revenues received for energy and mineral production activities on Indian lands. Most revenues are disbursed through the Interior Department’s Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Office of Special Trustee for American Indians. Some Indian tribes have direct payment authorization from the Department of Interior and receive their energy and mineral revenue directly through an established lockbox deposit account. Tribes use these revenues to develop infrastructure, provide healthcare and education, and support other critical community development programs, such as senior centers, public safety projects, and youth initiatives.

“The Navajo Nation appreciates its ongoing working partnership with the Department of the Interior,” **said Rowena Cheromiah, Navajo Nation's Minerals Royalty and Audit Manager.** “For many years, we’ve worked together to ensure that the Navajo Nation is receiving accurate royalty payments for its mineral resources on Navajo Nation lands.”

These disbursements also included a substantial increase to the LWCF and U.S. Treasury

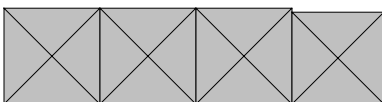
from Phase II revenue sharing under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (GOMESA), which took effect in FY2017. The GOMESA portion of the LWCF disbursement -- \$67 million -- remains available until expended; the \$892 million regular LWCF distribution for FY2017 must be used within 3 years. The Gulf producing states and coastal political subdivisions will receive their disbursements of FY 2017 qualified revenues in FY 2018, as required by the legislation.

The \$7.11 billion disbursed in FY 2017 compares to the \$6.23 billion the Department disbursed in FY 2016. The increase in disbursements is primarily attributed to a larger number of lease sales totaling higher acreage, efforts to streamline permitting and reduce regulatory burdens, and higher oil and gas prices experienced during the year as the economy and exports have continued to expand. All Federal, non-renewable energy revenues are collected, accounted for, analyzed, audited, and disbursed by ONRR from energy and mineral leases and other monies owed for the use of public resources on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf and onshore Federal and American Indian lands. Since 1982, ONRR has disbursed more than \$294 billion in mineral leasing revenues. ONRR makes most disbursements on a monthly basis from the royalties, rents, and bonuses it collects from energy and mineral companies operating on federal lands and waters.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, established by Congress in 1964, invests in projects that help strengthen communities, preserve American history and protect national endowments of lands and waters. The Reclamation Fund, which Congress established in 1902, funds the development of irrigation projects on arid and semiarid lands of the 17 western states. The Historic Preservation Fund provides matching grants to State and Tribal historic preservation offices to pay for surveys of historic resources, training, nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, and preservation grants to local jurisdictions.

The FY 2017 disbursement data is scheduled to be published on the Natural Resources Revenue Data portal located at <https://revenuedata.doi.gov/> on November 30, 2017.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-11-30T15:55:22-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Department of the Interior's Christmas Party Invitation
Received: 2017-11-30T15:55:56-05:00
2017 DOI Christmas Party Invitation.pdf

Greetings to All,

On behalf of Secretary Ryan Zinke, we cordially invite you to attend the Department of the Interior Christmas Party on December 14th from 6pm - 8:30pm.

There is a link on the attached invitation to RSVP no later than December 7th at 5pm. Please feel free to email any questions to: Jason_Funes@ios.doi.gov

Thank you & Merry Christmas,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541



THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INVITES YOU
TO CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH

SECRETARY RYAN ZINKE AT

Interior's Christmas Party

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 14, 2017
6:00-8:30 P.M.

IMMEDIATE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUILDING
1849 C STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20240

PARKING WILL BE AVAILABLE IN INTERIOR'S "D" PARKING GARAGE.
YET WILL BE EXTREMELY LIMITED. THE GARAGE IS LOCATED ON
18TH STREET NW, BETWEEN C AND E.

WE HOPE YOU ARE ABLE TO JOIN US & ASK THAT YOU RSVP
BY 5:00 P.M. EST ON FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 7, 2017 BY [CLICKING HERE](#).

DUE TO THE LIMITED EVENT CAPACITY,
WE CAN ONLY ACCOMMODATE ONE GUEST PER PERSON.
THIS INVITATION IS NON-TRANSFERABLE.

ATTIRE: BUSINESS

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.
YOU MAY CONTACT US AT JASON FUNES@IOS.DOI.GOV

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-01T11:09:12-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Phone Call Information
Received: 2017-12-01T11:09:46-05:00

Colleagues,
Below is the dial-in information for the 2pm call:

Call-in #: (b)(2)
Password: (b)(5)

MAGA,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-01T12:19:26-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: A Special White House Christmas Tour Invite - **Sign Up Before 4pm TODAY**
Received: 2017-12-01T12:19:59-05:00

Esteemed Colleagues,
Make this Christmas Great Again by signing up for a White House tour which will showcase the beautiful decor inside.

<https://twitter.com/FLOTUS/status/935147767726448640>

Our apologies for the late notice, yet please RSVP by 4pm today. Tours are extremely limited, please don't miss out.

Merry Christmas to all,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-01T12:31:17-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: *Link Attached* A Special White House Christmas Tour Invite - **Sign Up Before 4pm TODAY**
Received: 2017-12-01T12:31:57-05:00

Link to Sign Up: https://events.whitehouse.gov/form/RsvpFormHoliday?rid_PCMKX9JB4Q

Esteemed Colleagues,
Make this Christmas Great Again by signing up for a White House tour which will showcase the beautiful decor inside.

<https://twitter.com/FLOTUS/status/935147767726448640>

Our apologies for the late notice, yet please RSVP by 4pm today. Tours are extremely limited, please don't miss out.

Merry Christmas to all,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-01T13:02:16-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Conference Call Information
Received: 2017-12-01T13:03:07-05:00

Colleagues,
Below is the dial in information for the 2pm EST call:

Call in #: (b)(5)
Password: (b)(5)

MAGA,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-01T18:47:34-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Conference Call Follow Up
Received: 2017-12-01T18:48:16-05:00
[NMs - FACT VS FICTION.pdf](#)
[TP For NMs.pdf](#)

Colleagues,

As mentioned at the end of the conference call, attached are two documents which will provide substantive information for YOUR use.

MAGA,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

TALKING POINTS FOR ANTIQUITIES ACT/MONUMENT REVIEW

Correcting Past Overreach

Increasing Public Access

Giving Local Communities a Voice by Restoring Traditional Uses

Continuing Protection Where Warranted

Topline Message:

- These monument modifications will continue to protect objects and ensure compliance with the provisions and intent of the Act while also prioritizing public access, infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance, traditional use, tribal cultural use, and hunting and fishing rights.

Five Key Points:

- *Corrects Past Overreach*
 - The President is righting past overreach. The Act requires that only objects of historic or scientific interest are designated, within the smallest area compatible with the protection of those objects, and we are going to follow the law.
- *Restores Trust and Gives Local Communities a Voice by Restoring Traditional Uses*
 - The Trump Administration is making sure local communities have a voice by restoring traditional “multiple use” activities on these lands.
 - This will increase economic competitiveness, especially in rural communities, by allowing grazing, commercial fishing, logging, and in some cases, mineral development.
 - Monument designations should be used to protect objects, not unnecessarily restrain access.
- *Increases Public Access*
 - The Trump Administration is ensuring public lands are for public use and enjoyment, not to be closed off and set aside for special interests.
 - These modifications will increase public access that has been restricted by monument designations.
- *Prioritizes Infrastructure Upgrades*
 - The Trump Administration will remove restrictions that impede needed infrastructure improvements, such as upgrading restrooms, visitor centers, and trails, all of which serve to protect the objects in question.
- *Continues Protection Where Warranted*
 - The Trump Administration is continuing to protect public land, including keeping parts of monuments to protect objects of interest within the smallest areas compatible.
 - The Trump Administration is *not* going to drill in public parks

- The Trump Administration is *not* going to sell public lands wholesale
- The Trump Administration *will* protect objects in the “smallest area compatible” with the proper care of the objects to be protected.

Additional Messaging:

Righting Past Overreach

- The Antiquities Act requires that objects be of historic or scientific interest, the area reserved to protect the objects is the smallest area compatible, and that monuments be designated on federal land only.
- “Objects of historic or scientific interest” is a term that has been stretched to include landscape areas, biodiversity, “viewsheds,” World War II desert bombing craters, and “remoteness.”
 - Objects have been selected only to fill in pre-identified boundaries that mirror failed Congressional attempts to make protective land designations.
- Smallest area compatible:
 - The first monument designated under the act was Devils Tower at almost 1,200 acres. Several monuments designated since 1996 have been millions of acres.
 - President Obama established or expanded monuments on more than 550 million acres of land and water, more than any other President.
- On federal land:
 - Monument boundaries often encompass or are adjacent to private land, and in the case of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, the expansion contained 38% private land within the external boundary.

Prioritizing Infrastructure Improvements

- It is common for monument designations to prevent construction of future roads and other facilities, making the land inaccessible for use.
- Infrastructure enhancements enrich the people’s experience on our public lands far more than a designation written and signed in Washington, D.C.

Increasing public access that has been restricted by monument designations

- Advocates often aim for a monument’s eventual designation as a National Park by Congress, and National Parks do not allow hunting and can restrict motorized access.
 - Many National Parks were first designated as national monuments. Examples are Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Glacier Bay, Grand Canyon, Great Sand Dunes, Joshua Tree, Petrified Forest, Saguaro, and Zion.
- Roads closures
 - Restrictions on vegetative management and maintenance activities have led to poorly maintained roads and even closures, as in Cascade Siskiyou and Rio Grande Del Norte, for example. Roads have also been intentionally closed as part of management plans to protect objects.

Restoring the local voice by allowing the traditional uses conducted on the land prior to designation to occur.

- Monument designations have put land “off limits” for multiple-uses like grazing, timber harvest, fishing, resource development, infrastructure upgrades, and motorized recreation.
- Designating too much land for a national monument is harmful to the local tax base via the elimination of grazing, timber and mineral leases, as well as the elimination of hunting and fishing access.
- Monuments should be designated to protect, not prevent.
 - For example, subpoenaed emails and a Congressional investigation showed that Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSENM) was designated to stop a coal project.

Continuing to protect public land

- These lands are already federal and therefore carry protection or have protective land designations.
- GSENM has over 800,000 of Wilderness Study Areas and Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) has almost 450,000 of Wilderness Study Areas or Wilderness.
- The Paleontological Resources Preservation Act and Archaeological Resources Protection Act are just two of the many environmental laws passed after the 1906 Antiquities Act that offer increased land protections.

Background on the Antiquities Act:

- The Antiquities Act calls for the President to designate objects such as “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest” as national monuments.
- The Act mandates that the limits of the parcels of land reserved as national monuments “shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected,” and be designated on federal land.
- Despite this clear directive, the definition of “objects” has been extended to include landscape areas, biodiversity, and view sheds. “Smallest area” has become the exception and not the rule.
- Objects have often been selected only to fill in pre-identified boundaries that mirror failed Congressional attempts to designate areas under protective designations.
- Monument boundaries often encompass or are adjacent to private land, and in one case a monument expansion contained 38% private land within the external boundary.
- The most controversial monuments were designated or expanded in the waning days of a presidency after partisan efforts to designate the land stalled in Congress. This is a clear violation of the will of the people and overuse of executive power.
- Presidents have reduced the size of monuments 18 times in the past. The most significant reduction was in 1915 under President Woodrow Wilson, when he halved Mount Olympus National Monument (it has since become Olympic National Park)

- On April 26, 2017, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 13792, entitled “Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act.”
- President Trump’s executive order limited the review to monuments designated after January 1, 1996 and over 100,000 acres in size, or monuments that the Secretary deemed to have been created without adequate public input.
- Only 27 monuments were under review, out of the more than 150 monuments that the Act has been used to designate or expand.
- The order directed the Secretary to submit an interim report on Bears Ears National Monument within 45 days, which was delivered to the White House on June 10, 2017.
- The order directed the Secretary to submit a report on all other monuments under review within 120 days, August 24, 2017.

Background on the Monument Review Process:

- The Secretary opened a formal comment period for the review. This is the first time EVER that a formal comment period was opened on regulations.gov for national monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.
- Secretary Zinke has visited eight national monument sites in six states (Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine Monument, Katahdin Woods and Waters, Cascade Siskyou, Organ Mountains Desert Peaks, Gold Butte, and Basin and Range). He's held dozens of meetings with Tribal, local and state government officials, local stakeholders, and advocates from conservation, agriculture, tourism, and historic preservation organizations. The Secretary met with people and organizations who represent all sides of the issue.
- Interior also established a formal public comment period for the monument review. This is the first time ever a formal comment period occurred for Antiquities Act-designated National Monuments.

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: *No president has shrunk a monument.*

False: Monuments have been shrunk at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include Pres. John F. Kennedy removing 2882 acres from Bandelier, Presidents Taft, Wilson, Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: *The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.*

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. Under the Antiquities Act, the monuments are designated on already federal land. Therefore, if any monument is rescinded or shrunk, the land would remain federally owned and be managed by one of the land management agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the Park Service.

Myth: *Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.*

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

Myth: *The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.*

False: No national parks are under review. Of the 27 national monuments that are under review, only 2 are managed by the National Park Service and neither of them were recommended for rescission or boundary adjustments. The Secretary has continually committed he is against the sale/transfer/privatization of public lands, especially national parks. While two of the monuments are managed by the NPS - much like historic sites, national recreation areas, and national seashores - none of them are National Parks.

Myth: *The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.*

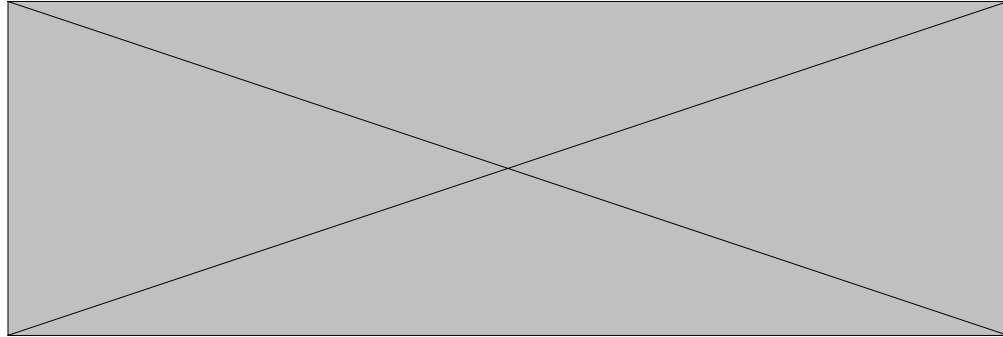
False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally had more than 60 meetings with hundreds of local stakeholders. Individuals & organizations represented all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and Nature Conservancy to county commissioners & residents and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: *Tribal Nations were not consulted.*

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for nearly two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the

Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-01T18:52:33-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Under Budget & Ahead of Schedule: Secretary Zinke Announces Full Funding to Repair Arlington Memorial Bridge
Received: 2017-12-01T18:53:11-05:00



Date: December 1, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

**Under Budget & Ahead of Schedule: Secretary Zinke Announces
Full Funding to Repair Arlington Memorial Bridge**
*Project saves taxpayers \$35 million - Shaves 18 months off construction
time*

WASHINGTON Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced a \$227 million project to rehabilitate Arlington Memorial Bridge, a historic and critical transportation link in the nation's capital. As awarded, the project will save American taxpayers \$35 million and 1.5 years of estimated construction time.

“Repairing Arlington Memorial Bridge underscores President Trump’s commitment to rebuilding American infrastructure and is a major step in addressing the National Park Service’s \$11.3 billion maintenance backlog,” **Secretary Zinke said.** “The bridge is one of the largest transportation infrastructure projects in National Park Service history.”

Over the past six years, the National Park Service (NPS) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have made emergency temporary repairs while planning the larger rehabilitation. Without a complete rehabilitation, the continued and accelerated deterioration of the bridge’s concrete deck would have required it be closed by 2021.

The NPS, with the District of Columbia as co-signer, received a \$90 million FASTLANE grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, and Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) secured an amendment to the fiscal year 2017 Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-31), which directed \$30 million

to the project. In order to complete the project in a single phase, the NPS will invest \$107 million of its annual transportation and construction funds. A “design-build” contract meaning the contractor will both design the work and conduct the repairs will save money and accelerate the project’s completion time.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awarded and will manage the \$192 million contract with Kiewit Infrastructure Co. of Hanover, Maryland. \$35 million of the total project cost is for engineering, construction management, wetlands mitigation, and contingency, through the FHWA.

“We are happy to play a role in rehabilitating this iconic American bridge,” **said Acting Federal Highway Administrator Brandye L. Hendrickson.** “Using state-of-the-art tools, techniques and engineering practices, we can improve the bridge’s safety and ensure it remains an active part of the nation’s capital.”

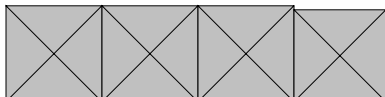
The project has benefitted from strong support from local leaders and congressional representatives, including District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC), Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine (VA), and Members of Congress Barbara Comstock and Don Beyer (VA).

Major construction will start in fall 2018. It will replace the drawbridge span, rehabilitate the concrete approach spans, and replace the concrete deck. Workers will employ accelerated bridge construction techniques, including using prefabricated concrete deck panels. They will reset the stone curbs and light posts and restore the historic stone and metal cladding. The structure of the existing bascule span will be replaced with variable depth steel girders, which will significantly extend the useful life of the bridge while significantly reducing maintenance costs. The NPS will begin minor repairs to the bridge by the beginning of 2018.

Regarded as Washington’s most beautiful bridge, Memorial Bridge symbolically links North and South in its alignment between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial. The adjacent Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway terminus, the Watergate steps, and monumental equestrian statuary join with the bridge to create a formal western terminus of the National Mall at the edge of the Potomac River.

Designed by the prominent architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White, the low, Neoclassical bridge is 2,163 feet long and 60 feet wide. Except for the bascule (drawbridge) span in the bridge’s center which is clad in metal, it is constructed from reinforced concrete faced with dressed North Carolina granite ashlar. When it opened in 1932, the bridge was the longest, heaviest and fastest opening drawbridge in the world; the drawbridge last opened in 1961. Today, it carries 68,000 cars per day.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-04T17:01:50-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: President Trump and Secretary Zinke Announce Modification to Utah Monuments, Resulting in 5 Unique National Monument Units Totaling More Than 1.2 Million Acres
Received: 2017-12-04T17:02:29-05:00

Colleagues,

Below is talking points from the WH regarding today's announcement. Use this as YOUR reference for as well as the DOI press release.

Any publications or work you do on this issue (Op-eds, statements, press releases, radio shows, television interviews, etc.) PLEASE SEND THAT INFO TO ME as well.

MAGA,
Jason Funes

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 4, 2017

**PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP STANDS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES AGAINST GOVERNMENT
OVERREACH ON LAND MANAGEMENT**

"The Antiquities Act does not give the Federal Government unlimited power to lock up millions of acres of land and water, and it's time we ended this abusive practice."

— President Donald J. Trump

RESPONSIBLE LAND MANAGEMENT: President Donald J. Trump is modifying two national monuments to continue to protect objects of significance while prioritizing public use and access.

□□□□□□ Today, President Trump is signing two proclamations modifying the boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in Utah.

□□□□□□ Bears Ears National Monument will be modified to two units named Shash Jáa, Navajo for Bears Ears, and Indian Creek, encompassing a total of 228,784 acres of land.

- Bears Ears was originally designated in 2016 to encompass nearly 1.5 million acres, including a patchwork of Federal, State, and private land.
- This modification will restore the majority of the National Forest and Bureau of Land Management land to the management status existing prior to the 2016 designation.

□□□□□□ Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument will be modified to three units encompassing a combined 1,006,341 acres, an area larger than the state of Rhode Island.

- Grand Staircase was originally designated in 1996 by President Clinton largely for political purposes.

□□□□□□ Presidents have modified the boundaries to remove lands from monuments 18 times in the past. The most significant reduction occurred in 1915 when President Woodrow Wilson halved Mount Olympus National Monument, which is now a National Park.

ENDING OVERREACH ON PUBLIC LAND: President Trump is ending past overreach and abuse of the monument review process under the Antiquities Act that has closed off land to the public, while continuing to protect objects of significance.

□□□□□□ The Antiquities Act requires that objects be of historic or scientific interest, that the area reserved to protect the objects be the smallest area compatible, and that monuments be designated on Federal land only.

□□□□□□ Since 1996, several national monuments designations have gone beyond the intent of the Antiquities Act – to limit protected areas to the smallest area compatible – and now encompass millions of acres.

- In 1906, President Teddy Roosevelt designated the first national monument at Devils Tower, which was less than 1,200 acres.

□□□□□□ “Objects of historic or scientific interest” is a term that has been stretched to include landscape areas, biodiversity, “viewsheds,” World War II desert bombing craters, and “remoteness.”

- Past administrations have abused the designation of objects as national monuments to fill in pre-identified boundaries that mirror failed Congressional attempts to make protective land designations.

□□□□□□ Monument external boundaries often encompass private land, and in the case of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, the expansion contained 38 percent private land within the external boundary.

□□□□□□ Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument is the poster child for Antiquities Act overreach and abuse, having been designated to assist President Bill Clinton’s reelection campaign and end the development of a coal project.

A NEW POLICY FOR LAND MANAGEMENT: President Trump and Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke will work to put in place new land management policies to protect objects while prioritizing public access, facilitating infrastructure development, and allowing traditional uses of the land.

□□□□□□ The Trump Administration is continuing to protect public land, and is keeping parts of monuments to protect objects of interest within the smallest areas compatible.

- The Trump Administration is not going to sell public lands wholesale.
- The Trump Administration will protect objects in the “smallest area compatible” with the proper care of the objects to be protected.

□□□□□□ The Trump Administration is making sure local communities have a voice by restoring traditional “multiple use” activities on Federal lands and waters.

- This will increase economic growth and prosperity, especially in rural communities, by allowing grazing, commercial fishing, logging, and in some cases, mineral development.
- Monument designations should be used to protect objects and not to unnecessarily restrain public access.

□□□□□□ Improving and developing infrastructure will help the American people experience our public lands that have been made inaccessible due to past overreach.

- Some monument designations prevent construction of future roads and other facilities, making the land inaccessible for use.
- Restrictions on vegetative management and maintenance activities have led to poorly maintained roads and even closures.

□□□□□□ Monument designations have greatly restricted multiple-uses like grazing, timber harvest, fishing, resource development, infrastructure upgrades, and motorized recreation.

- Designating too much land for a national monument is harmful to the local tax base via the elimination or unnecessary restriction of grazing, timber and mineral activity and leases, as well as the restricting of access to hunting and fishing opportunities.

A TRANSPARENT REVIEW PROCESS: President Trump and his Administration are being open and transparent in the review of monuments.

□□□□□□ The President’s proclamation follows an open and transparent review process originally initiated by President Trump’s Executive Order 13792, “Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act.”

- President Trump’s Executive Order limited the review to monuments designated after January 1, 1996, and over 100,000 acres in size, or monuments that Secretary Zinke deemed to have been created without adequate public input.
- The review only covers only 27 of the more than 150 monuments that the Act has been used to designate or expand.

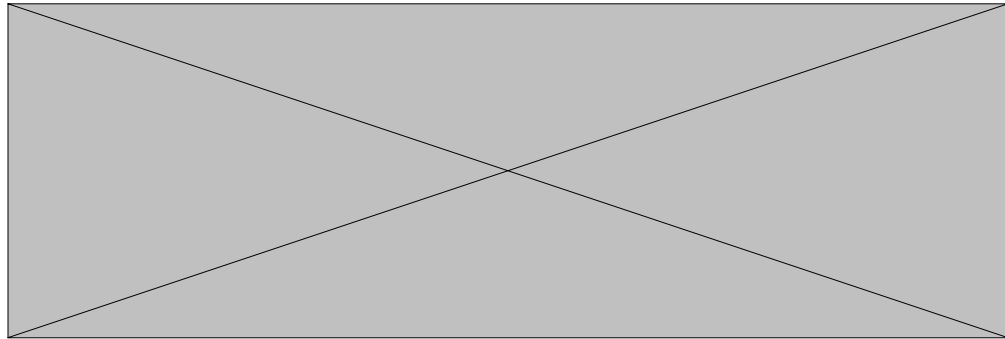
□□□□□□ Secretary Zinke visited eight monuments in six States and personally held more than 60 meetings with hundreds of local stakeholders.

- Individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate were involved, ranging from environmental organizations to county commissioners and local residents.

- Secretary Zinke met with Tribal representatives, including from the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City.

□□□□□□ Secretary of the Interior Zinke opened a formal comment period on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), for the first time ever, of the review of monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

###



Date: December 4, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

**President Trump and Secretary Zinke Announce Modification to
Utah Monuments,
Resulting in 5 Unique National Monument Units Totaling More Than
1.2 Million Acres**

Modifications protect paleontological resources, Native American artifacts and other objects of historic or scientific interest while restoring traditional use and access to public land

SALT LAKE CITY Acting upon the recommendation of U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and with the support of Utah's governor, Congressional delegation, local officials, and residents, President Donald J. Trump today signed proclamations to adjust the boundaries and management of [Utah's Bears Ears National Monument \(BENM\)](#) and [Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument \(GSENM\)](#). The proclamations modify the boundaries of those monuments and result in five unique monument units within the two monuments which protect important objects of historical and scientific interest.

"No one values the splendor of Utah more than the people of Utah and no one knows better how to use it. Families will hike and hunt on land they have known for generations, and they will preserve it for generations to come." **said President Donald J. Trump.** "The Antiquities Act does not give the Federal Government unlimited power to lock up millions of acres of land and water, and it's time we ended this abusive practice. Public lands will once again be for public use."

"I thank President Trump for his leadership on the Monument Review and for keeping his promise to make sure the rural voice is heard once again," **said Secretary Zinke.** "As I visited the Monuments in Utah, I met with Americans on all sides of the issue -- from ranchers to conservationists to tribal leaders -- and found that we agree on wanting to protect our heritage while still allowing public access to public land. The people of Utah overwhelmingly voiced to us that public land should be protected not for the special interests, but for the citizens of our great country who use them, and this is what President Trump is doing today. Bears Ears and Grand Staircase will remain under federal protection, will adhere to the spirit and letter of the Antiquities Act, and -- even after our modification -- combined will still be nearly twice the size of Rhode Island."

"By acting on Secretary Zinke's thoughtful recommendations, President Trump has restored balance to our public lands discussion," **said Governor Gary Herbert of Utah.** "We are pleased that Utahns once again have a voice in the process of determining appropriate uses of these public lands that we love. By reducing these super-sized monuments to a size consistent with the intent of the law, new doors of dialogue have opened up that will allow thoughtful, long-term protection of these federal lands. Federal, state, local and tribal officials can now convene to craft legislation for appropriate special protections and responsible recreational uses."

"Thank you Secretary Zinke, for coming to San Juan, Kane, and Garfield counties and listening to the local grassroots people. Your boots on the ground approach was unexpected, but well received and appreciated," **said San Juan County Commissioner Rebecca Benally.** "Thank you Senator Hatch. You and your staff have been champions for us. Thank you for never giving up. For believing we could rectify a wrong and for being a fighter for San Juan County and our people. Thank you President Trump. Thank you for not being a typical politician and passing us over. Thank you for caring about San Juan County. We may be only 15,000 strong, but we matter. We appreciate you willing to take the backlash from the special interest groups as you stand for the people and the economy of San Juan County."

"I'm thrilled and grateful to President Trump and Secretary Zinke for giving Utahns a voice in the protection of federal lands in Utah," **said Senator Orrin Hatch.** "The President's proclamation represents a balanced solution and a win for everyone on all sides of this issue. It also represents a new beginning in the way national monuments are designated, paving the way for more local input, and taking into account the actual letter and intent of the Antiquities Act, which calls for the 'smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected.'"

Bears Ears National Monument: The BENM will now encompass two monument units,

Shash Jáa and Indian Creek, which will continue to be jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. Shash Jáa is approximately 129,980 acres and Indian Creek is approximately 71,896 acres. Collectively, at approximately 201,876 acres in size, Bears Ears remains larger than Utah's Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park combined. The new proclamation allows for increased public access to the land and restores traditional use allowance for activities like cattle grazing and motorized recreation, and tribal collection of wood and herbs. Objects that remain within monument boundaries include: the "Bears Ears" buttes, Lime Ridge Clovis Site, Moon House Ruin, Doll House Ruin, Indian Creek Rock Art, and Newspaper Rock. The federal lands excluded from the monument will continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service.

In addition, the President's proclamation provides that the Bears Ears Commission will provide guidance and recommendations for the Shash Jáa unit of the monument and will be expanded to include a Native American San Juan County Commissioner elected by the majority-Native American voting district in that County. The President and Secretary will also request that Congress formally allocate Tribal co-management of the monument.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument: The GSENM will now consist of three distinct monument units, the "Grand Staircase" (209,993 acres), "Kaiparowits" (551,034 acres), and "Escalante Canyons" (242,836 acres), and all three will be managed by the BLM. The three new monument areas collectively total 1,003,863 acres, which is larger than the entire state of Rhode Island. The federal lands not included in the new monuments will continue to be managed by the BLM.

In the 20 years since designation of the GSENM, the objects identified by the proclamation have been more thoroughly examined and mapped, which offered the opportunity to examine the significance of the objects previously identified and determine the proper size of the reservation necessary to protect those objects. The modified monument includes important objects identified in the original designation, including those areas with the highest concentration of fossil resources, important landscape features such as the Grand Staircase, Upper Paria Canyon System, Kaiparowits Plateau, Escalante Natural Bridge, Upper Escalante Canyons, East Kaibab Monocline, Grosvenor Arch, Old Paria Townsite, Dance Hall Rock, and relict plant communities such as No Mans Mesa.

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: No president has shrunk a monument.

False: Monuments have been reduced at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include President John F. Kennedy excluding Bandelier National Monument, Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of

public lands. The Antiquities Act only allows Federal land to be reserved as a national monument. Therefore, if any monument is reduced, the land would remain federally owned and would be managed by the appropriate Federal land management agency, such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service (NPS).

Myth: Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

Myth: The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.

False: No national parks are under review.

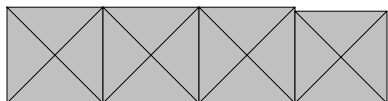
Myth: The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.

False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally hosted more than 60 meetings attended by hundreds of local stakeholders. Attendees included individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and the Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: Tribal Nations were not consulted.

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

###

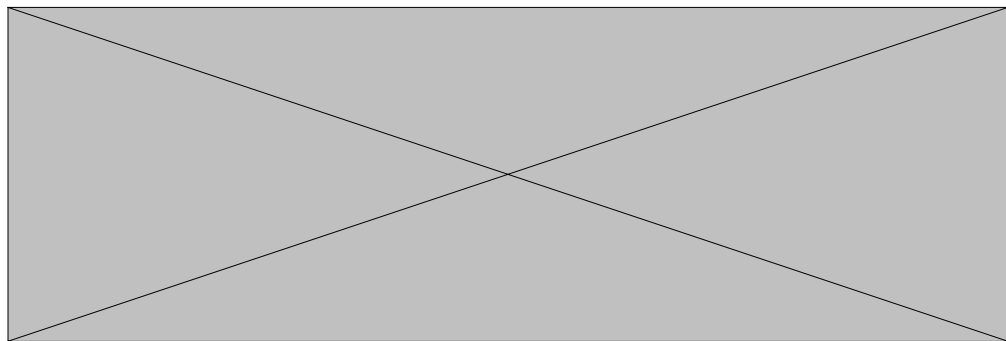


From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-04T17:09:10-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: President Trump and Secretary Zinke Announce Modification to Utah Monuments, Resulting in 5 Unique National Monument Units Totaling More Than 1.2 Million Acres
Received: 2017-12-04T17:09:51-05:00

Colleagues,

Any publications or work you do on this issue (Op eds, statements, press releases, radio shows, television interviews, etc.) PLEASE SEND THAT INFO TO ME as well.

MAGA,
Jason Funes



Date: December 4, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

**President Trump and Secretary Zinke Announce Modification to Utah
Monuments,
Resulting in 5 Unique National Monument Units Totaling More Than
1.2 Million Acres**

*Modifications protect paleontological resources, Native American artifacts and other
objects of historic or scientific interest while restoring traditional use and access to
public land*

SALT LAKE CITY Acting upon the recommendation of U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and with the support of Utah's governor, Congressional delegation, local officials, and residents, President Donald J. Trump today signed proclamations to adjust the boundaries and management of Utah's Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM). The proclamations modify the boundaries of those monuments and result in five unique monument units within the two monuments which protect important objects of historical and scientific interest.

"No one values the splendor of Utah more than the people of Utah and no one knows better how to use it. Families will hike and hunt on land they have known for generations, and they will

preserve it for generations to come.” **said President Donald J. Trump.** “The Antiquities Act does not give the Federal Government unlimited power to lock up millions of acres of land and water, and it’s time we ended this abusive practice. Public lands will once again be for public use.”

"I thank President Trump for his leadership on the Monument Review and for keeping his promise to make sure the rural voice is heard once again," **said Secretary Zinke.** "As I visited the Monuments in Utah, I met with Americans on all sides of the issue -- from ranchers to conservationists to tribal leaders -- and found that we agree on wanting to protect our heritage while still allowing public access to public land. The people of Utah overwhelmingly voiced to us that public land should be protected not for the special interests, but for the citizens of our great country who use them, and this is what President Trump is doing today. Bears Ears and Grand Staircase will remain under federal protection, will adhere to the spirit and letter of the Antiquities Act, and -- even after our modification -- combined will still be nearly twice the size of Rhode Island."

"By acting on Secretary Zinke's thoughtful recommendations, President Trump has restored balance to our public lands discussion," **said Governor Gary Herbert of Utah.** "We are pleased that Utahns once again have a voice in the process of determining appropriate uses of these public lands that we love. By reducing these super-sized monuments to a size consistent with the intent of the law, new doors of dialogue have opened up that will allow thoughtful, long-term protection of these federal lands. Federal, state, local and tribal officials can now convene to craft legislation for appropriate special protections and responsible recreational uses."

"Thank you Secretary Zinke, for coming to San Juan, Kane, and Garfield counties and listening to the local grassroots people. Your boots on the ground approach was unexpected, but well received and appreciated," **said San Juan County Commissioner Rebecca Benally.** "Thank you Senator Hatch. You and your staff have been champions for us. Thank you for never giving up. For believing we could rectify a wrong and for being a fighter for San Juan County and our people. Thank you President Trump. Thank you for not being a typical politician and passing us over. Thank you for caring about San Juan County. We may be only 15,000 strong, but we matter. We appreciate you willing to take the backlash from the special interest groups as you stand for the people and the economy of San Juan County."

"I'm thrilled and grateful to President Trump and Secretary Zinke for giving Utahns a voice in the protection of federal lands in Utah," **said Senator Orrin Hatch.** "The President's proclamation represents a balanced solution and a win for everyone on all sides of this issue. It also represents a new beginning in the way national monuments are designated, paving the way for more local input, and taking into account the actual letter and intent of the Antiquities Act, which calls for the 'smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected.'"

Bears Ears National Monument: The BENM will now encompass two monument units, Shash Jáa and Indian Creek, which will continue to be jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. Shash Jáa is approximately 129,980 acres and Indian Creek is approximately 71,896 acres. Collectively, at approximately 201,876 acres in size, Bears

Ears remains larger than Utah's Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park combined. The new proclamation allows for increased public access to the land and restores traditional use allowance for activities like cattle grazing and motorized recreation, and tribal collection of wood and herbs. Objects that remain within monument boundaries include: the "Bears Ears" buttes, Lime Ridge Clovis Site, Moon House Ruin, Doll House Ruin, Indian Creek Rock Art, and Newspaper Rock. The federal lands excluded from the monument will continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service.

In addition, the President's proclamation provides that the Bears Ears Commission will provide guidance and recommendations for the Shash Jaa unit of the monument and will be expanded to include a Native American San Juan County Commissioner elected by the majority-Native American voting district in that County. The President and Secretary will also request that Congress formally allocate Tribal co-management of the monument.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument: The GSENM will now consist of three distinct monument units, the "Grand Staircase" (209,993 acres), "Kaiparowits" (551,034 acres), and "Escalante Canyons" (242,836 acres), and all three will be managed by the BLM. The three new monument areas collectively total 1,003,863 acres, which is larger than the entire state of Rhode Island. The federal lands not included in the new monuments will continue to be managed by the BLM.

In the 20 years since designation of the GSENM, the objects identified by the proclamation have been more thoroughly examined and mapped, which offered the opportunity to examine the significance of the objects previously identified and determine the proper size of the reservation necessary to protect those objects. The modified monument includes important objects identified in the original designation, including those areas with the highest concentration of fossil resources, important landscape features such as the Grand Staircase, Upper Paria Canyon System, Kaiparowits Plateau, Escalante Natural Bridge, Upper Escalante Canyons, East Kaibab Monocline, Grosvenor Arch, Old Paria Townsite, Dance Hall Rock, and relict plant communities such as No Mans Mesa.

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: No president has shrunk a monument.

False: Monuments have been reduced at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include President John F. Kennedy excluding Bandelier National Monument, Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. The Antiquities Act only allows Federal land to be reserved as a national monument. Therefore, if any monument is reduced, the land would remain federally owned and would be managed by the appropriate Federal land management agency, such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service (NPS).

Myth: Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

Myth: The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.

False: No national parks are under review.

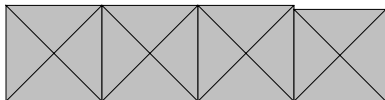
Myth: The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.

False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally hosted more than 60 meetings attended by hundreds of local stakeholders. Attendees included individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and the Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: Tribal Nations were not consulted.

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-04T17:51:46-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: President Trump and Secretary Zinke Announce Modification to Utah Monuments, Resulting in 5 Unique National Monument Units Totaling More Than 1.2 Million Acres
Received: 2017-12-04T17:52:27-05:00

These are the proclamations for the two NM's modified today.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/2017/12/04/presidential_proclamation_modifying_bears_ears_national_monument

https://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/2017/12/04/presidential_proclamation_modifying_grand_staircase_escalante_national

MAGA,

Jason Funes

Special Assistant

Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-5541

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Funes, Jason** <jason_funes@ios.doi.gov>

Date: Mon, Dec 4, 2017 at 5:01 PM

Subject: Fwd: President Trump and Secretary Zinke Announce Modification to Utah Monuments, Resulting in 5 Unique National Monument Units Totaling More Than 1.2 Million Acres

To:

Colleagues,

Below is talking points from the WH regarding today's announcement. Use this as YOUR reference for as well as the DOI press release.

Any publications or work you do on this issue (Op-eds, statements, press releases, radio shows, television interviews, etc.) PLEASE SEND THAT INFO TO ME as well.

MAGA,

Jason Funes

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 4, 2017

**PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP STANDS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES AGAINST GOVERNMENT
OVERREACH ON LAND MANAGEMENT**

“The Antiquities Act does not give the Federal Government unlimited power to lock up millions of acres of land and water, and it’s time we ended this abusive practice.”

— President Donald J. Trump

RESPONSIBLE LAND MANAGEMENT: President Donald J. Trump is modifying two national monuments to continue to protect objects of significance while prioritizing public use and access.

□□□□□□ Today, President Trump is signing two proclamations modifying the boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in Utah.

□□□□□□ Bears Ears National Monument will be modified to two units named Shash Jáa, Navajo for Bears Ears, and Indian Creek, encompassing a total of 228,784 acres of land.

- Bears Ears was originally designated in 2016 to encompass nearly 1.5 million acres, including a patchwork of Federal, State, and private land.
- This modification will restore the majority of the National Forest and Bureau of Land Management land to the management status existing prior to the 2016 designation.

□□□□□□ Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument will be modified to three units encompassing a combined 1,006,341 acres, an area larger than the state of Rhode Island.

- Grand Staircase was originally designated in 1996 by President Clinton largely for political purposes.

□□□□□□ Presidents have modified the boundaries to remove lands from monuments 18 times in the past. The most significant reduction occurred in 1915 when President Woodrow Wilson halved Mount Olympus National Monument, which is now a National Park.

ENDING OVERREACH ON PUBLIC LAND: President Trump is ending past overreach and abuse of the monument review process under the Antiquities Act that has closed off land to the public, while continuing to protect objects of significance.

□□□□□□ The Antiquities Act requires that objects be of historic or scientific interest, that the area reserved to protect the objects be the smallest area compatible, and that monuments be designated on Federal land only.

□□□□□□ Since 1996, several national monuments designations have gone beyond the intent of the Antiquities Act — to limit protected areas to the smallest area compatible — and now encompass millions of

acres.

- In 1906, President Teddy Roosevelt designated the first national monument at Devils Tower, which was less than 1,200 acres.

□□□□□□“Objects of historic or scientific interest” is a term that has been stretched to include landscape areas, biodiversity, “viewsheds,” World War II desert bombing craters, and “remoteness.”

- Past administrations have abused the designation of objects as national monuments to fill in pre-identified boundaries that mirror failed Congressional attempts to make protective land designations.

□□□□□□Monument external boundaries often encompass private land, and in the case of the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, the expansion contained 38 percent private land within the external boundary.

□□□□□□Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument is the poster child for Antiquities Act overreach and abuse, having been designated to assist President Bill Clinton’s reelection campaign and end the development of a coal project.

A NEW POLICY FOR LAND MANAGEMENT: President Trump and Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke will work to put in place new land management policies to protect objects while prioritizing public access, facilitating infrastructure development, and allowing traditional uses of the land.

□□□□□□The Trump Administration is continuing to protect public land, and is keeping parts of monuments to protect objects of interest within the smallest areas compatible.

- The Trump Administration is not going to sell public lands wholesale.
- The Trump Administration will protect objects in the “smallest area compatible” with the proper care of the objects to be protected.

□□□□□□The Trump Administration is making sure local communities have a voice by restoring traditional “multiple use” activities on Federal lands and waters.

- This will increase economic growth and prosperity, especially in rural communities, by allowing grazing, commercial fishing, logging, and in some cases, mineral development.
- Monument designations should be used to protect objects and not to unnecessarily restrain public access.

□□□□□□Improving and developing infrastructure will help the American people experience our public lands that have been made inaccessible due to past overreach.

- Some monument designations prevent construction of future roads and other facilities, making the land inaccessible for use.
- Restrictions on vegetative management and maintenance activities have led to poorly maintained roads and even closures.

□□□□□□Monument designations have greatly restricted multiple-uses like grazing, timber harvest, fishing, resource development, infrastructure upgrades, and motorized recreation.

- Designating too much land for a national monument is harmful to the local tax base via the elimination or unnecessary restriction of grazing, timber and mineral activity and leases, as well as the restricting of access to hunting and fishing opportunities.

A TRANSPARENT REVIEW PROCESS: President Trump and his Administration are being open and transparent in the review of monuments.

□□□□□□ The President’s proclamation follows an open and transparent review process originally initiated by President Trump’s Executive Order 13792, “Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act.”

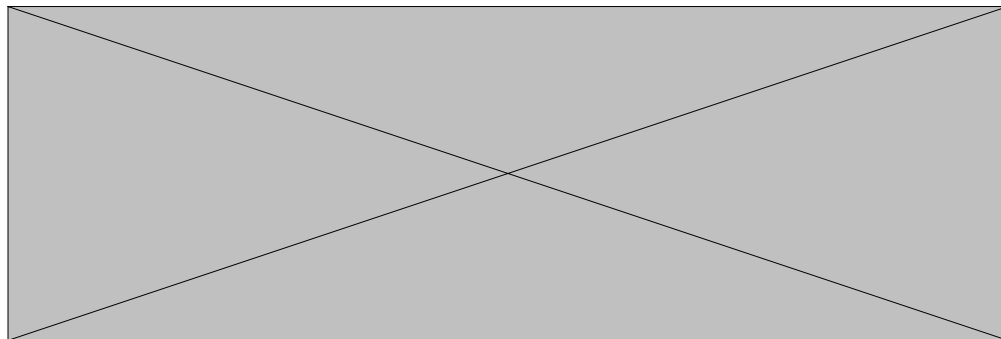
- President Trump’s Executive Order limited the review to monuments designated after January 1, 1996, and over 100,000 acres in size, or monuments that Secretary Zinke deemed to have been created without adequate public input.
- The review only covers only 27 of the more than 150 monuments that the Act has been used to designate or expand.

□□□□□□ Secretary Zinke visited eight monuments in six States and personally held more than 60 meetings with hundreds of local stakeholders.

- Individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate were involved, ranging from environmental organizations to county commissioners and local residents.
- Secretary Zinke met with Tribal representatives, including from the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City.

□□□□□□ Secretary of the Interior Zinke opened a formal comment period on [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), for the first time ever, of the review of monuments designated under the Antiquities Act.

###



Date: December 4, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

**President Trump and Secretary Zinke Announce Modification to
Utah Monuments,
Resulting in 5 Unique National Monument Units Totaling More Than
1.2 Million Acres**

*Modifications protect paleontological resources, Native American artifacts and
other objects of historic or scientific interest while restoring traditional use and
access to public land*

SALT LAKE CITY Acting upon the recommendation of U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and with the support of Utah's governor, Congressional delegation, local officials, and residents, President Donald J. Trump today signed proclamations to adjust the boundaries and management of [Utah's Bears Ears National Monument \(BENM\)](#) and [Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument \(GSENM\)](#). The proclamations modify the boundaries of those monuments and result in five unique monument units within the two monuments which protect important objects of historical and scientific interest.

"No one values the splendor of Utah more than the people of Utah and no one knows better how to use it. Families will hike and hunt on land they have known for generations, and they will preserve it for generations to come." **said President Donald J. Trump.** "The Antiquities Act does not give the Federal Government unlimited power to lock up millions of acres of land and water, and it's time we ended this abusive practice. Public lands will once again be for public use."

"I thank President Trump for his leadership on the Monument Review and for keeping his promise to make sure the rural voice is heard once again," **said Secretary Zinke.** "As I visited the Monuments in Utah, I met with Americans on all sides of the issue -- from ranchers to conservationists to tribal leaders -- and found that we agree on wanting to protect our heritage while still allowing public access to public land. The people of Utah overwhelmingly voiced to us that public land should be protected not for the special interests, but for the citizens of our great country who use them, and this is what President Trump is doing today. Bears Ears and Grand Staircase will remain under federal protection, will adhere to the spirit and letter of the Antiquities Act, and -- even after our modification -- combined will still be nearly twice the size of Rhode Island."

"By acting on Secretary Zinke's thoughtful recommendations, President Trump has restored balance to our public lands discussion," **said Governor Gary Herbert of Utah.** "We are pleased that Utahns once again have a voice in the process of determining appropriate uses of these public lands that we love. By reducing these super-sized monuments to a size consistent with the intent of the law, new doors of dialogue have opened up that will allow thoughtful, long-term protection of these federal lands. Federal, state, local and tribal officials can now convene to craft legislation for appropriate special protections and responsible recreational

uses."

"Thank you Secretary Zinke, for coming to San Juan, Kane, and Garfield counties and listening to the local grassroots people. Your boots on the ground approach was unexpected, but well received and appreciated," **said San Juan County Commissioner Rebecca Benally**. "Thank you Senator Hatch. You and your staff have been champions for us. Thank you for never giving up. For believing we could rectify a wrong and for being a fighter for San Juan County and our people. Thank you President Trump. Thank you for not being a typical politician and passing us over. Thank you for caring about San Juan County. We may be only 15,000 strong, but we matter. We appreciate you willing to take the backlash from the special interest groups as you stand for the people and the economy of San Juan County."

"I'm thrilled and grateful to President Trump and Secretary Zinke for giving Utahns a voice in the protection of federal lands in Utah," **said Senator Orrin Hatch**. "The President's proclamation represents a balanced solution and a win for everyone on all sides of this issue. It also represents a new beginning in the way national monuments are designated, paving the way for more local input, and taking into account the actual letter and intent of the Antiquities Act, which calls for the 'smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected.'"

Bears Ears National Monument: The BENM will now encompass two monument units, Shash Jáa and Indian Creek, which will continue to be jointly managed by the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service. Shash Jáa is approximately 129,980 acres and Indian Creek is approximately 71,896 acres. Collectively, at approximately 201,876 acres in size, Bears Ears remains larger than Utah's Bryce Canyon National Park and Zion National Park combined. The new proclamation allows for increased public access to the land and restores traditional use allowance for activities like cattle grazing and motorized recreation, and tribal collection of wood and herbs. Objects that remain within monument boundaries include: the "Bears Ears" buttes, Lime Ridge Clovis Site, Moon House Ruin, Doll House Ruin, Indian Creek Rock Art, and Newspaper Rock. The federal lands excluded from the monument will continue to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service.

In addition, the President's proclamation provides that the Bears Ears Commission will provide guidance and recommendations for the Shash Jáa unit of the monument and will be expanded to include a Native American San Juan County Commissioner elected by the majority-Native American voting district in that County. The President and Secretary will also request that Congress formally allocate Tribal co-management of the monument.

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument: The GSENM will now consist of three distinct monument units, the "Grand Staircase" (209,993 acres), "Kaiparowits" (551,034 acres), and "Escalante Canyons" (242,836 acres), and all three will be managed by the BLM. The three new monument areas collectively total 1,003,863 acres, which is larger than the entire state of Rhode Island. The federal lands not included in the new monuments will continue to be managed by the BLM.

In the 20 years since designation of the GSENM, the objects identified by the proclamation have been more thoroughly examined and mapped, which offered the opportunity to examine the significance of the objects previously identified and determine the proper size of the reservation necessary to protect those objects. The modified monument includes important objects identified in the original designation, including those areas with the highest concentration of fossil resources, important landscape features such as the Grand Staircase, Upper Paria Canyon System, Kaiparowits Plateau, Escalante Natural Bridge, Upper Escalante Canyons, East Kaibab Monocline, Grosvenor Arch, Old Paria Townsite, Dance Hall Rock, and relict plant communities such as No Mans Mesa.

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: No president has shrunk a monument.

False: Monuments have been reduced at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include President John F. Kennedy excluding Bandelier National Monument, Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. The Antiquities Act only allows Federal land to be reserved as a national monument. Therefore, if any monument is reduced, the land would remain federally owned and would be managed by the appropriate Federal land management agency, such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service (NPS).

Myth: Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

Myth: The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.

False: No national parks are under review.

Myth: The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.

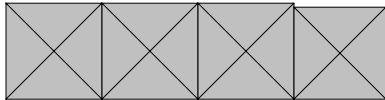
False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally hosted more than 60 meetings attended by hundreds of local stakeholders. Attendees included individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and the Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: Tribal Nations were not consulted.

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears

Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-05T11:22:11-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Department of the Interior's Christmas Party Invitation - *Reminder*
Received: 2017-12-05T11:22:58-05:00
[2017 DOI Christmas Party Invitation.pdf](#)

Greetings to All,

On behalf of Secretary Ryan Zinke, we cordially invite you to attend the Department of the Interior Christmas Party on December 14th from 6pm - 8:30pm.

This is ***just an invite reminder***, if you have already RSVP'd or you can't make it and already advised us, we appreciate your feedback.

Attached is the invitation to RSVP no later than December 7th at 5pm. Please feel free to email any questions to: Jason_Funes@ios.doi.gov.

Thank you & Merry Christmas to all,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

Here is the link to

RSVP: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhOOt_ngGd_JXa8xbg_pNQCXNs8c5tlkbrQz5qci9yITdNw/viewform

***ONLY** if you are unable to access the Google Doc, please email me to RSVP. Thank you to those who have already messaged me.



THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INVITES YOU
TO CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH

SECRETARY RYAN ZINKE AT

Interior's Christmas Party

THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 14, 2017
6:00-8:30 P.M.

IMMEDIATE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUILDING
1849 C STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20240

PARKING WILL BE AVAILABLE IN INTERIOR'S "D" PARKING GARAGE.
YET WILL BE EXTREMELY LIMITED. THE GARAGE IS LOCATED ON
18TH STREET NW, BETWEEN C AND E.

WE HOPE YOU ARE ABLE TO JOIN US & ASK THAT YOU RSVP
BY 5:00 P.M. EST ON FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 7, 2017 BY CLICKING [HERE](#).

DUE TO THE LIMITED EVENT CAPACITY,
WE CAN ONLY ACCOMMODATE ONE GUEST PER PERSON.
THIS INVITATION IS NON-TRANSFERABLE.

ATTIRE: BUSINESS

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.
YOU MAY CONTACT US AT JASON FUNES@IOS.DOI.GOV

To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Chrissy Harbin
Sent: 2017-12-05T12:56:05-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Department of the Interior's Christmas Party Invitation - *Reminder*
Received: 2017-12-05T12:56:14-05:00

Thanks for the invite -- looking forward!

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 5, 2017, at 11:23 AM, Funes, Jason <jason_funes@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Greetings to All,

On behalf of Secretary Ryan Zinke, we cordially invite you to attend the Department of the Interior Christmas Party on December 14th from 6pm - 8:30pm.

This is ***just an invite reminder***, if you have already RSVP'd or you can't make it and already advised us, we appreciate your feedback.

Attached is the invitation to RSVP no later than December 7th at 5pm. Please feel free to email any questions to: Jason_Funes@ios.doi.gov.

Thank you & Merry Christmas to all,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

Here is the link to

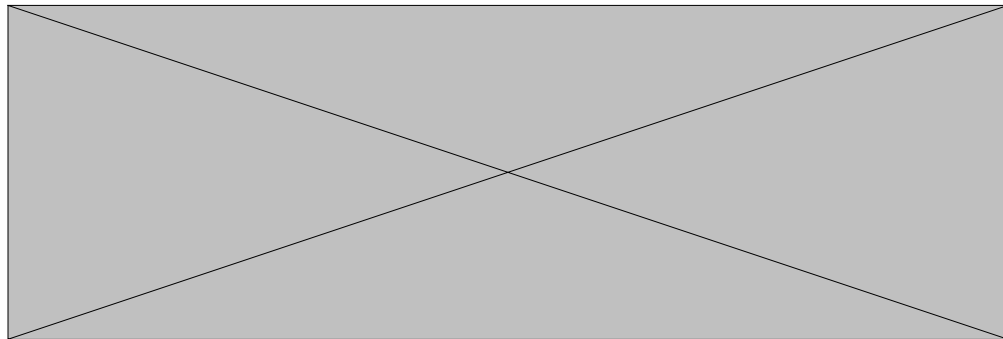
RSVP: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhQQt_ngGd_JXa8xbg_pNQCXNs8c5tlkbrQz5qci9yITdNw/viewform

***ONLY** if you are unable to access the Google Doc, please email me to RSVP. Thank you to those who have already messaged me.

<2017 DOI Christmas Party Invitation.pdf>

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-05T15:07:56-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Recommends Keeping Federal Lands in Federal Ownership, Adding Three New Monuments
Received: 2017-12-05T15:08:32-05:00
[Final Report From DOI.pdf](#)
[American Antiquities Act of 1906.pdf](#)

Below is a link and attached is the final report regarding recommendations which was sent to the WH...



Date: December 5, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Recommends Keeping Federal Lands in Federal Ownership, Adding Three New Monuments

WASHINGTON Today, in accordance with President Donald J. Trump's April 26, 2017, Executive Order (EO), U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke released [the final report](#) outlining recommendations he made to the President on some national monument designations under the Antiquities Act.

Recommendations Secretary Zinke made in the final report included the following:

- **Keep federal lands federal** - the report does not recommend that a single acre of federal land be removed from the federal estate. If land no longer falls within a monument boundary it will continue to be federal land and will be managed by whichever agency managed the land before designation
- **Add three new national monuments** - Secretary Zinke recommended beginning a process to consider three new national monuments: The Badger II Medicine Area (Montana), Camp Nelson (Kentucky), and the Medgar Evers Home (Mississippi).
- **Modify the boundaries and management of four monuments** - Bears Ears, Grand Staircase, Cascade-Siskiyou, and Gold Butte National Monuments

- **Expand access for hunting and fishing** - Maintain an ongoing review to ensure public access to encourage more hunting and fishing in monuments

“America has spoken and public land belongs to the people,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “As I visited the Monuments across this country, I met with Americans on all sides of the issue -- from ranchers to conservationists to tribal leaders -- and found that we agree on wanting to protect our heritage while still allowing public access to public land. My recommendations to the President reflect that, in some circumstances, proclamations should be amended, boundaries revised, and management plans updated.”

FACT VS FICTION: Antiquities Act and Monument Review

Myth: No president has shrunk a monument.

False: Monuments have been reduced at least eighteen times under presidents on both sides of the aisle. Some examples include President John F. Kennedy excluding Bandelier National Monument, Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge reducing Mount Olympus National Monument, and President Eisenhower reducing the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Colorado.

Myth: The monument review will sell/transfer public lands to states.

False: This is not true. The Secretary adamantly opposes the wholesale sale or transfer of public lands. The Antiquities Act only allows federal land to be reserved as a national monument. Therefore, if any monument is reduced, the land would remain federally owned and would be managed by the appropriate federal land management agency, such as the BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service (NPS).

Myth: Removing the monument designation from land will leave Native American artifacts and paleontological objects subject to looting or desecration.

False: This is not true. Whether these resources are found on land designated as a monument, national forest, BLM- managed public land, or other federal land, it is generally illegal to remove or disrupt these resources without a permit issued by the federal government.

Myth: The monument review will close/sell/transfer national parks.

False: No national parks are under review.

Myth: The review was done without meeting advocates for national monuments.

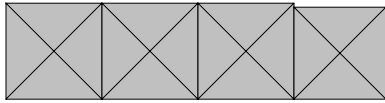
False: The Secretary visited eight monuments in six states and personally hosted more than 60 meetings attended by hundreds of local stakeholders. Attendees included individuals and organizations representing all sides of the debate ranging from environmental organizations like the Wilderness Society and the Nature Conservancy to county commissioners and, residents, and ranchers who prefer multiple use of the land.

Myth: Tribal Nations were not consulted.

False: This is patently false. Before traveling to Utah, the Secretary met with Tribal representatives in his office. On his first day in Utah in May, the Secretary met with the Bears

Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition in Salt Lake City, for just under two hours. Throughout the four-day survey of the Utah monuments, the Secretary also met with local Tribal representatives who represent different sides of the debate. The Secretary also met with Tribal representatives for their input on several other monuments from Maine to New Mexico to Oregon and everywhere in between. Additionally, the Department hosted several Tribal listening sessions at the Department and across the country, including a four hour session with the Acting Deputy Secretary on May 30th.

###



.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: RYAN K. ZINKE

SUBJECT: Final Report Summarizing Findings of the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act

Executive Summary and Impressions of the Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke

In 1906, Congress delegated to the President the power to designate a monument under the Antiquities Act (Act). The Act authorizes the President singular authority to designate national monuments without public comment, environmental review, or further consent of Congress. Given this extraordinary executive power, Congress wisely placed limits on the President by defining the objects that may be included within a monument as being "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest," by restricting the authority to Federal lands, and by limiting the size of the monument to "the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects." Congress retained its authority to make land-use designations without such limitations. Even with the restrictive language, use of the Act has not always been without controversy. In fact, even Theodore Roosevelt's first proclamation of the roughly 1,200-acre Devil's Tower in Wyoming was controversial. Since that time, the use of the Act has largely been viewed as an overwhelming American success story and today includes almost 200 of America's greatest treasures.

More recently, however, the Act's executive authority is under scrutiny as Administrations have expanded both the size and scope of monument designations. Since 1996 alone, the Act has been used by the President 26 times to create monuments that are over 100,000 acres or more in size and have included private property within the identified external boundaries. While early monument designations focused more on geological formations, archaeological ruins, and areas of historical interest, a more recent and broad interpretation of what constitutes an "object of historic or scientific interest" has been extended to include landscape areas, biodiversity, and viewsheds. Moreover, features such as World War II desert bombing craters and remoteness have been included in justifying proclamations.

The responsibility of protecting America's public lands and unique antiquities should not be taken lightly; nor should the authority and the power granted to a President under the Act. No President should use the authority under the Act to restrict public access, prevent hunting and fishing, burden private land, or eliminate traditional land uses, unless such action is needed to protect the objects. It is Congress, and not the President, that has the authority to make protective land designations outside of the narrow scope of the Act, and only Congress retains the authority to enact designations such as national parks, wilderness, and national conservation

and recreation areas. The Executive power under the Act is not a substitute for a lack of congressional action on protective land designations.

You were correct in tasking me to review and provide recommendations of all monuments that were designated from 1996 to the present that are 1) 100,000 acres or greater in size or 2) were made without adequate public consultation. This is far from the first time an examination of scope of monuments has been conducted. Existing monuments have been modified by successive Presidents in the past, including 18 reductions in the size of monuments, and there is no doubt that you have the authority to review and consider recommendations to modify or add to a monument.

The methodology used for the review consisted of three steps. The first step was to gather the facts which included the examination of existing proclamations, object(s) to be protected, segregation of the object(s) (if practical) to meet the “smallest area compatible” requirement, the scientific and rational basis for the boundaries, land uses within the monument, public access concerns, authorized traditional uses, and appropriate environmental and cultural protections. As directed by you, the second step was to ensure that the local voice was heard by holding meetings with local, state, tribal, and other elected officials; non-profit groups; and other stakeholders, as well as providing an online format for public comment. The final step was to review policies on public access, hunting and fishing rights, traditional use such as timber production and grazing, economic and environmental impacts, and potential legal conflicts, and to provide a report to you no later than August 24, 2017.

The review found that each monument was unique in terms of the object(s) used for justification, proclamation language, history, management plans, economic impact, and local support. Adherence to the Act’s definition of an “object” and “smallest area compatible” clause on some monuments were either arbitrary or likely politically motivated or boundaries could not be supported by science or reasons of practical resource management. Despite the apparent lack of adherence to the purpose of the Act, some monuments reflect a long public debate process and are largely settled and strongly supported by the local community. Other monuments remain controversial and contain significant private property within the identified external boundary or overlap with other Federal land designations such as national forests, Wilderness Study Areas (WSA), and lands specifically set aside by Congress for permanent forest production.

Public comments can be divided into two principal groups. Proponents tended to promote monument designation as a mechanism to prevent the sale or transfer of public land. This narrative is false and has no basis in fact. Public lands within a monument are federally owned and managed regardless of monument designation under the Act. Proponents also point to the economic benefits from increased tourism from monument recognition. On this point, monument status has a potential economic benefit of increased visitation, particularly to service related industries, outdoor recreation industries, and other businesses dependent or supported by tourism. Increased visitation also places an additional burden and responsibility on the Federal Government to provide additional resources and manpower to maintain these lands to better support increased visitation and recreational activities.

Comments received were overwhelmingly in favor of maintaining existing monuments and demonstrated a well-orchestrated national campaign organized by multiple organizations. Opponents of monuments primarily supported rescinding or modifying the existing monuments to protect traditional multiple use, and those most concerned were often local residents associated with industries such as grazing, timber production, mining, hunting and fishing, and motorized recreation. Opponents point to other cases where monument designation has resulted in reduced public access, road closures, hunting and fishing restrictions, multiple and confusing management plans, reduced grazing allotments and timber production, and pressure applied to private landowners to sell their land encompassed by or adjacent to a monument.

I. Introduction and Purpose

As described more fully below, Executive Order 13792, “Presidential Executive Order on the Review of Designations Under the Antiquities Act,” dated April 26, 2017, (Order or EO 13792) directed me to conduct a review of certain Presidential designations made under the Act, to determine if the designations conform to the policies set forth in the Order. The Order further instructed me to provide two reports summarizing this review:

- a. an Interim Report under section 2(d), due within 45 days, addressing the Bears Ears National Monument established by Proclamation No. 9558, dated December 28, 2016, and “other such designations as the Secretary determines to be appropriate for inclusion”; and
- b. a Final Report under section 2(e), due within 120 days, summarizing the findings of the review for all other monument designations covered by the Order.

The Order also requested that I include in both reports recommendations for “Presidential actions, legislative proposals, or other actions consistent with law” to conform designations to the policy set forth in the Order.

This Memorandum constitutes the Final Report under section 2(e) of the Order and addresses the findings of the review of certain Presidential designations made under the Act.

II. Background

A. The Antiquities Act

Passed in 1906, the Act, now codified at 54 U.S.C. 320301-320303, reflected a nearly decade-long effort by Congress, the Department of the Interior, and members of the archeological community to protect antiquities from looting and desecration. The Act authorizes the President to “declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated on land owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be national monuments.” 54 U.S.C. 320301(a). The Act states that the President *may* reserve parcels of Federal land as part of such monument, but if so the President *shall* limit those reservations to “*the smallest area compatible* with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.” 54 U.S.C. 320301(b). (Emphasis added.)

The Act also originally criminalized efforts to “appropriate, excavate, injure, or destroy any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of antiquity, situated on lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States” without permission.

The Act has been used to designate or expand national monuments on Federal lands more than 150 times. It has also been used at least 18 times by Presidents to reduce the size of 16 national monuments, including 3 reductions of the Mount Olympus National Monument by Presidents Taft, Wilson, and Coolidge that cumulatively reduced the size of the 639,200-acre Monument by a total of approximately 314,080 acres, and a reduction of the Navajo National Monument by President Taft from its original 360 acres to 40 acres. President Franklin Roosevelt also modified the reservation of the Katmai National Monument to change management of the Monument.

B. Executive Order 13792

You issued Executive Order 13792 on April 26, 2017. Consistent with the concerns noted above, section 1 of the Order states:

Designations of national monuments under the [Antiquities Act], have a substantial impact on the management of Federal lands and the use and enjoyment of neighboring lands. Such designations are a means of stewarding America's natural resources, protecting America's natural beauty, and preserving America's historic places. Monument designations that result from a lack of public outreach and proper coordination with State, tribal, and local officials and other relevant stakeholders may also create barriers to achieving energy independence, restrict public access to and use of Federal lands, burden State, tribal, and local governments, and otherwise curtail economic growth. Designations should be made in accordance with the requirements and original objectives of the Act and appropriately balance the protection of landmarks, structures, and objects against the appropriate use of Federal lands and the effects on surrounding lands and communities.

The Order required me to review all designations or expansions resulting in a designation covering more than 100,000 acres or any other designations that he determines were “made without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders” to determine whether it conforms to the policy set forth in section 1. The Order listed several factors for me to consider when making that determination:

- (1) the requirements and original objectives of the Act, including the Act’s requirement that reservations of land not exceed “...the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected”;
- (2) whether designated lands are appropriately classified under the Act as “historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, [or] other objects of historic or scientific interest”;
- (3) the effects of a designation on the available uses of designated Federal lands, including consideration of the multiple-use policy of section 102(a)(7) of the Federal Land Policy

and Management Act (FLPMA) (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(7)), as well as the effects on the available uses of Federal lands beyond monument boundaries;

- (4) the effects of a designation on the use and enjoyment of non-Federal lands within or beyond monument boundaries;
- (5) concerns of state, tribal, and local governments affected by a designation, including the economic development and fiscal condition of affected states, tribes, and localities;
- (6) the availability of Federal resources to properly manage designated areas; and
- (7) such other factors as the Secretary deems appropriate.

As noted above, section 2 of the Order directs me to provide, within 120 days of the date of the Order, a Final Report including the results of the review and any resulting recommendations on monuments.

C. Monuments Under Review

Monument	Location	Year	Federal Acreage (Est.)
Basin and Range	Nevada	2015	703,585
Bears Ears	Utah	2016	1,353,000
Berryessa Snow Mountain	California	2015	330,780
Canyons of the Ancients	Colorado	2000	176,370
Carrizo Plain	California	2001	211,045
Cascade Siskiyou	Oregon	2000/2017	113,431
Craters of the Moon	Idaho	1924/2000	738,420
Giant Sequoia	California	2000	328,315
Gold Butte	Nevada	2016	296,937
Grand Canyon-Parashant	Arizona	2000	1,021,030
Grand Staircase-Escalante	Utah	1996	1,866,331
Hanford Reach	Washington	2000	194,450
Ironwood Forest	Arizona	2000	129,055
Katahdin Woods and Waters	Maine	2016	87,564
Mojave Trails	California	2016	1,600,000
Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks	New Mexico	2014	496,529
Rio Grande del Norte	New Mexico	2013	242,710
Sand to Snow	California	2016	154,000

San Gabriel Mountains	California	2014	346,177
Sonoran Desert	Arizona	2001	486,400
Upper Missouri River Breaks	Montana	2001	377,346
Vermilion Cliffs	Arizona	2000	279,566

D. Marine Monuments Under Review

The Department of Commerce (DOC) is undertaking a concurrent review process, under both Executive Order 13792 and Executive Order 13795, “Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy”, signed April 28, 2017. The DOC review includes both National Marine Sanctuaries and the five Marine Monuments under the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) review. The five marine monuments jointly reviewed are below.

Monument	Location	Year	Federal Acreage (Est.)
Marianas Trench	CNMI/Pacific Ocean	2009	61,077,668
Northeast Canyons and Seamounts	Atlantic Ocean	2016	3,144,320
Pacific Remote Islands	Pacific Ocean	2009	313,941,851
Papahānumokuākea	Hawaii	2006/2016	372,848,597
Rose Atoll	American Samoa	2009	8,609,045

E. Review Process

In an effort to make the review process transparent and give people a voice in that process, DOI announced on May 5, 2017, a formal comment period for the review. This was the first time regulations.gov has been used for a formal comment period associated with the Act. The review period closed on July 10, 2017. The DOI received approximately 2.8 million comments both electronically and by mail.

Since May, I personally visited eight national monument sites in six states. I held dozens of meetings with individuals and organizations, including tribal, local, and state government officials; local stakeholders; and advocates from conservation, agriculture, tourism, and historic preservation organizations.

III. Results

A. Broadly and Arbitrarily Defined “Objects”

While there are many instances when the Act has been used for the proper stewardship of objects, I have concerns that modern uses of the Act do not clearly and consistently define the objects. Lending further to this concern is that there are other areas, not a part of a monument, which contain virtually identical objects. The West was inhabited by ancient cultures, the

remnants of which are well-preserved due to the West's arid climate, and can be found throughout the land. There is a legitimate question as to why only some of these resources were chosen as objects to protect under the Act, while others were not.

Throughout the review, I have seen examples of objects not clearly defined in the proclamations. Examples of such objects are geographic areas including viewsheds and ecosystems. Proper use of the Act should specifically identify the "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest," and the quantity of land necessary to protect each object, if any.

However, prior Administrations appear, in some instances, to have designated monuments only after congressional efforts to develop broader land-management legislation stalled. As a result, some monument boundaries mirror the previously proposed legislative boundaries that were developed as part of proposed comprehensive land-management legislation, not pursuant to the Act. Congress has plenary discretion to further protect areas of public lands and make other areas available for economically productive uses. Given that these same considerations and balancing processes are not available under the Act, the use of these legislative boundaries as monuments boundaries appears to have circumvented the legislative process.

B. Landscape Area Designations

In the case of lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), designating geographic landscape areas as objects of historic or scientific interest is especially problematic given that the determination of land uses is normally done under the vigorous public balancing processes pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). When landscape areas are designated and reserved as part of a monument, objects and large tracts of land are overlain by a more restrictive management regime, which mandates protection of the objects identified. This has the effect of narrowing the range of uses and limiting BLM's multiple-use mission. As a result, absent specific assurances, traditional uses of the land such as grazing, timber production, mining, fishing, hunting, recreation, and other cultural uses are unnecessarily restricted. Such action especially harms rural communities in western states given that these towns have historically benefited and been economically sustained by grazing, mining, and timber production on nearby public lands.

The land management and planning challenges associated with monument designations can particularly be seen where monuments are designated over special management regimes already in place. For example, many of these monuments include WSAs. Pursuant to section 603 of FLPMA, WSAs are already managed so as not to impair the suitability of such areas for preservation as wilderness and, in some cases, can have stricter management requirements than those outlined in a proclamation of a monument. As WSAs may provide a higher level of protection, this raises a question as to whether a designation under the Act is even necessary.

C. Traditional Uses Limited

It appears that certain monuments may have been designated to prevent economic activity such as grazing, mining, and timber production rather than to protect specific objects. With regard to grazing, while it is uncommon for proclamations to prohibit grazing outright, restrictions

resulting from monument designations on activities such as vegetative management directly hinder livestock-grazing uses.

Restrictions on vegetative management or other maintenance activities have also led to poorly maintained roads, and even road closures. There are also cases where roads have intentionally been closed as part of management plans in order to protect objects, as it is often the case that monument designations can result in an increased threat of damage or looting of objects due to higher visitation. As a result, when developing transportation plans, Federal land managers have found the most efficient way to protect objects in monuments is to limit motorized vehicle access.

Therefore, public access is of great concern related to monument designations. Hunters, anglers, and recreationalists are at times prevented from visiting these lands. Disabled and elderly visitors who particularly rely on motorized transportation also have limited access. Further, some tribal members have raised concerns that their cultural practices such as wood and herb gathering are constrained by lack of access.

While the use of public land is of continuing concern, there is a perception by private inholders that their land is also encumbered by monument designations. The Act states that the President may only designate as monuments objects that “are situated on land owned or controlled by the Federal Government.” However, there is concern among private landowners that monument designations around their land have the potential to limit access to their land and economic activity outside of their lands.

Many stakeholders reported a perception that the goal of monument designations surrounding private land is for the eventual acquisition of these lands by the Federal Government to be made part of the monument. This process is often facilitated by third parties that purchase private land and then sell that land to the Federal Government.

D. Concerns of State, Tribal, and Local Governments

Given that a significant portion of land in western states is owned by the Federal Government, the multiple-use approach to land management is essential for economic development. The DOI has certainly heard that monument designations bring increased tourism, and therefore revenue, to some local businesses, as well as jobs. Some of these monuments under review have resulted in this activity. However, in other instances these jobs, many of which are seasonal, and the revenues resulting from tourism, do not necessarily offset the lost or forgone employment and revenue resulting from the limitations placed on land development.

Local governments raised issues relating to lost jobs and revenue, especially when there has been a lack of meaningful consultation and public process before monuments are designated. Some of the reviewed monument designations were undertaken after public meetings. However, these meetings were not always adequately noticed to all stakeholders and instead were filled with advocates organized by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to promote monument designations. (It is worth noting that this dynamic is similarly reflected in the public comment process for this review. The DOI received approximately 2.6 million form comments associated with NGO-organized campaigns, which far outnumbered individual comments.)

Too often, it is the local stakeholders who lack the organization, funding, and institutional support to compete with well-funded national NGOs. As a result, the public consultation processes that have occurred prior to monument designations have often not adequately accounted for local voices. This is concerning, as these are the communities and stakeholders affected the most by the land-use restrictions associated with these designations. Indeed, state legislatures in both Utah and Arizona have considered or passed resolutions or legislation asking for modifications either to existing monuments or to the Antiquities Act itself, often citing a lack of proper public process.

Like state governments, tribes are also concerned about consultation, and many are interested in exploring a more meaningful role in managing designations that encompass sacred or culturally significant tribal lands. In the case of the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM), the Inter-Tribal Coalition had asked for true co-management of BENM. However, such authority is not available to the President; it must be granted by Congress. The BENM proclamation established an advisory commission for the Tribal Coalition to make non-binding recommendations. I recommended in the Interim Report of June 10, 2017, that you request congressional authority to enable tribal co-management of designated areas within the revised BENM boundaries.

Several tribes also expressed concern about access to and protection of sacred sites. Access is particularly important to continue traditional cultural practices on these sites. For example, as mentioned above, closed roads prevent wood gathering to be undertaken with motorized vehicles. Further, tribes have expressed concern that publicity and attention to sacred sites attracts more visitors and imperils the integrity and safety of these sites.

E. Enforcement and Protection Concerns

Monuments that are hundreds of thousands of acres and above bring significant management challenges. The requirement that an area be designated as “the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected” is a limitation as much about practicality of protection as it is about preventing reservations that are too large and that might unnecessarily prohibit or restrict other land uses. As noted above, there is concern that monument designations can draw attention to special areas and that increased visitation can threaten the objects. In simple terms, monuments that span up to a million acres or more are difficult to protect and therefore undermine the intent of the Act.

The agencies charged with enforcement rarely receive increased funding following a proclamation. Therefore, these designations may fail to provide more protection for the objects than applicable land-management authorities already in place.

IV. Recommendations

A. Monument Modifications

I recommend that you exercise your discretion to modify certain existing proclamations and boundaries. In doing so, each proclamation would continue to identify particular objects or sites of historic or scientific interest and recite grounds for the designation thereby comporting with

the Act's policies and requirements. However, this can be done in a manner that prioritizes public access, infrastructure, traditional use, tribal cultural use, and hunting and fishing rights. These recommendations have been submitted to you with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Commerce. These recommended modifications are intended to ensure that the monuments meet the purposes of the Act, including that the area reserved be limited to the smallest area compatible with protection of the relevant objects.

Bears Ears

- The BENM was established by Presidential Proclamation No. 9558, dated December 28, 2016. It consists of 1,353,000 acres of Federal land in San Juan County, Utah, and is jointly managed by BLM (1.063 million acres) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) (290,000 acres).
- The BENM contains cultural and archeological sites, unique geologic features, and areas important to the practicing of tribal cultural traditions and ceremonies. It also contains many objects that are common or otherwise not of particular scientific or historic interest.
- In the 114th Congress, legislation was introduced that designates specified Federal lands as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System. The total boundary encompassing these land actions largely tracks with the boundaries of BENM.
- Portions of the area are also home to significant recreational opportunities, including hiking, backpacking, canyoneering, mountain biking, and rock climbing.
- Within and adjacent to the BENM boundaries, numerous management authorities and plans govern the patchwork of Federal, State of Utah, and private lands. This includes 11 BLM WSAs aggregating approximately 381,000 acres, as well as a 46,353-acre Wilderness on USFS lands.
- When accounting for State land and private land within the boundaries of BENM, the total area encompassed is close to 1,500,000 acres.

Recommendations:

- The Proclamation should be amended, through the use of appropriate authority, including lawful exercise of your discretion granted by the Act, to ensure compliance with the provisions and intent of the Act while also prioritizing public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.
- The boundary should be revised through the use of appropriate authority, including lawful exercise of your discretion granted by the Act, to continue to protect objects and ensure the size of the monument reservation is limited to the smallest area compatible with the protection of the objects identified.
- You should request congressional authority to enable tribal co-management of designated cultural areas within the revised BENM boundaries.
- Congress should make more appropriate conservation designations, such as national recreation areas or national conservation areas, within the current BENM.

- The management plan should be developed to continue to protect objects and prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.
- The DOI should work with Congress to secure funding for adequate infrastructure and management needed to protect objects effectively.

Cascade-Siskiyou

- Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument (CSNM) was established by Presidential Proclamation No. 7318 on June 9, 2000, originally consisting of approximately 52,000 acres. It was expanded by almost 48,000 acres through Presidential Proclamation No. 9564 on January 12, 2017.
- The CSNM is located in Jackson and Klamath Counties, Oregon, and Siskiyou County, California, and is managed by the BLM.
- The original 2000 designation was the first monument to protect biodiversity. The expansion purported to create a necessary “buffer” to support the biodiversity objects outlined in the original CSNM.
- In 2015, legislation was introduced that would have protected most of the areas in the monument expansion through conservation and recreation designations.
- The CSNM contains within its borders a 24,707-acre Wilderness Area designated by Congress in the 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Management Act.
- The Wilderness Area was expanded to its current size in 2010 with the acquisition of two privately owned inholdings.
- Encompassed within the exterior boundary of the original CSNM is 19,818 acres of private land (23.2%), and within the boundary of the expansion is 32,677 private acres (38.3%), for a total of approximately 52,485 acres of privately owned lands. This is 30% of the total area within the external boundaries of the CSNM.
- A substantial number of acres within both the original monument and the expansion area are designated as Oregon and California Revested (O&C) Railroad Lands, which are lands statutorily set aside for permanent forest production under the Oregon and California Revested Lands Sustained Yield Management Act of 1937 (O&C Act).
- In light of the direction in the O&C Act, commenters raised concerns about the legal authority to establish a national monument on O&C lands.
- The 2000 CSNM monument designation required a study to assess the compatibility of grazing with the biodiversity of the area and the subsequent study found threats to riparian objects. As a result, grazing has largely diminished in the original CSNM area. Many allotments were bought out as a result of a larger land package deal in the 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Management Act.
- Motorized transportation off of roads was prohibited in the original CSNM designation. The expansion area only allows for motorized transportation off of roads in limited circumstances and only after a transportation-management plan is completed. To date, the plan has not been initiated. Due to poor maintenance, remaining usable roads in CSNM are often unsuitable for use.

Recommendations:

- The Proclamation should be amended, through the use of appropriate authority, including lawful exercise of your discretion granted by the Act, to ensure compliance with the provisions and intent of the Act while also prioritizing public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.
- The boundary should be revised through the use of appropriate authority, including lawful exercise of your discretion granted by the Act, in order to address impacts on private lands and to address issues concerning the designation and reservation of O&C Lands as part of the monument and the impacts on commercial timber production.
- The monument management plan should be revised to continue to protect objects and prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.
- The DOI should work with Congress to secure funding for adequate infrastructure and management needs to protect objects effectively.

Gold Butte

- The Gold Butte National Monument (GBNM) was established by Presidential Proclamation No. 9559 on December 28, 2016, and consists of 296,937 acres managed by BLM and the Bureau of Reclamation in Clark County, Nevada.
- The resources identified in the Proclamation include the biologic, archaeologic, and areas of spiritual significance to American Indian tribes.
- There have been multiple legislative attempts to designate this area under protective land designations, beginning in 2008 and concluding in 2015, which were unsuccessful.
- Lands within GBNM are managed with some level of a protective designation, either under the existing land-use plan or as designated Wilderness (28,787 acres) or Wilderness Study Areas (28,454 acres). The GBNM is also overlapped by Areas of Critical Environmental Concern designated by BLM.
- The local water district has historic water rights for six springs and provides water for the City of Mesquite. Five of the six water district springs are located within the boundaries of GBNM.
- The GBNM Proclamation inaccurately states that livestock has not been permitted in the GBNM area since 1998 and therefore prevents issuing any new grazing permits or leases. In fact, there are four active grazing allotments administered by the Arizona Strip District, either fully or partially contained within GBNM, which have been authorized since 1998.

Recommendations:

- The Proclamation should be amended, through the use of appropriate authority, including lawful exercise of your discretion granted by the Act, to ensure compliance with the

provisions and intent of the Act while also prioritizing public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights. The proclamation should also be amended to address inaccuracies related to active grazing allotments.

- The boundary should be revised through the use of appropriate authority, including lawful exercise of your discretion granted by the Act, to ensure that the monument reservation is limited to the smallest area compatible with the protection of the objects identified and protect historic water rights.
- You should request congressional authority to enable tribal co-management of designated cultural areas within the revised GBNM boundaries.
- The management plan should be developed to protect objects and prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.
- The DOI should work with Congress to secure funding for adequate infrastructure and management needs to protect objects effectively.

Grand Staircase-Escalante

- Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) was established by Presidential Proclamation No. 6920 on September 18, 1996, and was BLM's first national monument. It is located in Kane and Garfield Counties, Utah, and continues to be managed by BLM. It encompasses 1,866,331 acres.
- The resources identified in the Proclamation include geologic, paleontological, archaeological, and biological resources. It also contains many objects that are common or otherwise not of particular scientific or historic interest.
- Almost 47 percent of GSENM lands (881,997 acres) are included in WSAs.
- While overall permitted livestock grazing within GSENM is at roughly the same level now as it was at the time of designation, the actual number of cattle runs has decreased due to restrictions on activities that facilitate grazing, including moving water lines, vegetative management, erosion control measures, and maintenance of infrastructure such as fences and roads.
- Motorized vehicle use is limited both by the GSENM Proclamation and the Monument Plan. This has created conflict with Kane and Garfield Counties' transportation network and affected access for recreational activities.
- Areas encompassed within GSENM contain an estimated several billion tons of coal.
- Each monument designation DOI reviewed under EO 13792 had some form of public outreach before designation, with the exception of GSENM.

Recommendations:

- The Proclamation should be amended, through the use of appropriate authority, including lawful exercise of your discretion granted by the Act, to ensure compliance with the provisions and intent of the Act while also prioritizing public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.

- The boundary should be revised through the use of appropriate authority, including lawful exercise of your discretion granted by the Act to ensure that the monument reservation is limited to the smallest area compatible with the protection of the objects identified.
- The management plan should be revised to protect objects as well as prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.
- The DOI should work with Congress to secure funding for adequate infrastructure and management needs to protect objects effectively.

Katahdin Woods and Waters

- Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (KWWNM) was established by Presidential Proclamation No. 9476 on August 24, 2016. The KWWNM consists of just over 87,500 acres in Maine that were donated to the Federal Government for the purpose of inclusion in the National Park System.
- Thirteen parcels were donated and conveyed under separate deeds to the United States and recorded on August 23, the day before KWWNM was designated by the President.
- In the 113th Congress, a draft legislative proposal was circulated to create a national park within the same boundary that encompasses KWWNM. Ultimately, Members of the Maine congressional delegation declined to introduce legislation.
- Timbering has historically occurred on these lands. After purchase from private landowners some traditional uses such as hunting and snowmobiling were permitted as part of the custom of the local area.
- While the land is now public and open for use, there are still concerns that timber harvest and snowmobiling access will not be permitted in all parts of KWWNM.
- Use restrictions imposed by the designation of KWWNM are the result of generally applicable National Park Service (NPS) regulations.
- Commercial timbering is not typically allowed in units of the National Park System, however 54 U.S.C. § 100753 provides limited authority for cutting of timber to “conserve . . . historic objects.”
- There is a strong historical role of timbering in the region, and the KWWNM Proclamation gives extensive attention to this as part of the narrative for the designation.

Recommendation:

- The Proclamation should be amended, through the use of appropriate authority, including lawful exercise of your discretion granted by the Act, to ensure compliance with the provisions and intent of the Act while also prioritizing promote a healthy forest through active timber management.
- The management plan should be developed to protect objects and prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.

Northeast Canyons and Seamounts

- The Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument (NCSMNM) was established by Presidential Proclamation No. 9496 on September 15, 2016.
- The NCSMNM spans 3,144,320 acres and is located approximately 130 miles southeast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.
- The NCSMNM is managed through the DOI U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge System and the DOC National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- The Proclamation stated that NCSNM was established to protect geologic features, natural resources, and species.
- While in some cases specific objects are identified by name, in other instances the Proclamation simply identifies a class of objects contained within the Monument.
- One such class of object are the marine canyons. However, the Proclamation recognizes that marine canyons are common along the East Coast.
- Fishing commercially is prohibited within the Monument, with the exception of red crab and American lobster fisheries; these fisheries can continue for up to 7 years.
- There is no explanation in the Proclamation as to why the objects are threatened by well-regulated commercial fishing.
- Commercial fisheries operate in and around the NCSMNM, predominantly around the landward edges of the canyons. These areas support fisheries for a variety of species of fish and shellfish, providing income and employment throughout the Northeastern United States. In its public comments, the New England Fishery Management Council stated that 1) management in NCSMNM should remain under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; and 2) the designation of NCSMNM disrupts the Council's ability to manage species to balance protection with commercial fishing.
- The Council further noted that the pre-designation process was not consistent with the full public consultation process usually conducted under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Recommendation:

- The Proclamation should be amended, through the use of appropriate authority, including lawful exercise of your discretion granted by the Act, to ensure compliance with the provisions and intent of the Act while also allowing the regional fishery management council to make fishery-management decisions as authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks

- Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument (OMDPNM) was established by Presidential Proclamation No. 9131 on May 21, 2014. It is a BLM-managed monument consisting of 496,529 acres in Doña Ana County, New Mexico.
- The resources identified in the Proclamation are visual, cultural, geologic, paleontological, and ecological.

- The OMDPNM consists of 4 unconnected areas and contains 176,310 acres of WSAs.
- The OMDPNM is in proximity to strategic national security installations, and one part of OMDPNM, the Potrillos Mountain Complex, is in close proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border.
- Border security is a concern resulting from the designation, as the Proclamation restricts motorized transportation close to the border.
- The remoteness and topography of the Potrillos Mountain Complex lends itself to a drug smuggling route and needs to be monitored.
- The Potrillos Mountain Complex also encompasses the Mesilla groundwater basin. The basin has an unknown potential to address future water needs, recharge, salinity control, and storage.
- Legislation introduced in the 115th Congress would designate parts of the current boundaries of OMDPNM as wilderness and release other areas from WSA management. The legislation largely utilizes the boundaries of the current OMDPNM.
- A robust ranching community has operated in the area for decades and heavily contributes to the local economy.
- The designation could prevent access to parts of allotments. Further, vegetative management and other maintenance work could be restricted and further degrade the ability for ranchers to run cattle.

Recommendation:

- The Proclamation should be amended, through the use of appropriate authority, including lawful exercise of your discretion granted by the Act, to ensure compliance with the provisions and intent of the Act while also prioritizing public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.
- The DOI should work with the Department of Homeland Security to address impediments to national security associated with the Potrillos Mountain Complex.
- The DOI should work with the Department of Defense to assess risks to operational readiness of nearby military installations.
- You should request congressional authority to enable tribal co-management of designated cultural areas.
- The management plan should be developed to protect objects and prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.
- The DOI should work with Congress to secure funding for adequate infrastructure and management needs to protect objects effectively.

Pacific Remote Islands

- The Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM) was established by Presidential Proclamation No. 8336 on January 6, 2009, and expanded by Presidential Proclamation No. 9173 on September 2014. It spans approximately 313,941,851 acres.

- PRIMNM is managed through the DOI U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wildlife Refuge System and the DOC National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- The original PRIMNM boundary is comprised of rectangular areas that extend approximately 50 nautical miles (nm) from the mean low water lines of Howland, Baker and Jarvis Islands; Johnston, Wake and Palmyra Atolls; and Kingman Reef. The expansion extends the boundary from the 50 nm boundary to the 200 mile seaward limit of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone around Jarvis Island and Johnston and Wake Atolls.
- The primary purpose of the designation was to protect the coral reef and associated species surrounding these islands.
- Commercial fishing is prohibited within PRIMNM.
- Prior to monument designation, there were Hawaiian and American Samoan longliners and purse seiners vessels operating. Indirect benefits of the purse seine fishery are important to the economy of American Samoa, which is heavily dependent on these vessels. American Samoa is under the jurisdiction of DOI.

Recommendation

- Proclamation No. 9173 should be amended or the expanded boundary be revised, through the use of appropriate authority, including lawful exercise of your discretion granted by the Act, to ensure compliance with the provisions and intent of the Act while also allowing the regional fishery management council to make fishery-management decisions for fishing in the expansion area as authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Rio Grande Del Norte

- Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument (RGDNNM) was established by Presidential Proclamation No. 8946 on March 25, 2013 and is located in Taos County, New Mexico.
- It consists of 242,710 acres managed by BLM and contains 7,050 acres of WSAs.
- The resources identified in the Proclamation are cultural, historic, and ecological.
- Several legislative proposals have been introduced in the past to establish a National Conservation Area in the same footprint as RGDNNM, the most recent in 2010. All legislative attempts were unsuccessful.
- Grazing is a significant traditional use in RGDNNM. However, I heard from local stakeholders that a lack of access to roads due to monument restrictions has left many grazing permittees choosing not to renew permits.

Recommendations

- The Proclamation should be amended, through the use of appropriate authority, including lawful exercise of your discretion granted by the Act, to ensure compliance with the provisions and intent of the Act while also prioritizing public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.

- You should request congressional authority to enable tribal co-management of designated cultural areas.
- The management plan should be developed to protect objects and also prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.
- The DOI should work with Congress to secure funding for adequate infrastructure and management needs to protect objects effectively.

Rose Atoll

- Rose Atoll Marine National Monument (RAMNM) was established on January 6, 2009, by Presidential Proclamation No. 8337.
- The RAMNM extends out approximately 50 nm from the mean low water line of Rose Atoll and encompasses 8,609,045 acres of emergent and submerged lands and waters of and around Rose Atoll.
- The RAMNM was established to protect the reef ecosystem, which is home to diverse terrestrial and marine species.
- Rose Atoll is also designated as a National Wildlife Refuge, established on July 5, 1973, by cooperative agreement between the Government of American Samoa and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Commercial fishing is prohibited in RAMNM.
- Fishing in American Samoa is a mixture of commercial, subsistence, traditional, and sport fishing. American Samoa's economy is heavily dependent on can tuna fish production, and many monument designations have contributed to ongoing threats to the viability of the industry.
- Prior to 2002, the waters that were included in RAMNM and adjoining areas closer to the main islands were important commercial fishing areas.

Recommendation:

- The Proclamation should be amended or the boundary be revised, through the use of appropriate authority, including lawful exercise of your discretion granted by the Act, to ensure compliance with the provisions and intent of the Act while also allowing the regional fishery management council to make fishery-management decisions as authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Specific monument modification measures will be submitted separately should you concur with the monument modification recommendations in this Final Report.

B. Monument Additions

There are many instances of the use of the Act for the proper stewardship of objects of cultural, historic, or scientific interest. Through stakeholder engagement, DOI identified new sites that may merit protection and designation under the Act. This would provide an opportunity to work with Congress to establish a standard process for public input and monument designations in the future.

This process should include clear criteria for designations and methodology for meeting conservation and protection goals. Both should be fully transparent so that the public may provide the exigency for designation and weigh the benefits of protection against economic harm to the public. Options to establish this new monument-designation process needs to include legislation, as well as regulations, or internal guidance within the Executive Branch, such as an Executive Order or a Secretary's Order.

One such location that has come to DOI's attention is Camp Nelson, an 1863 Union Army supply depot, training center, and hospital in Kentucky. It encompasses approximately 4,000 acres and served as the third largest recruitment and training center for African-American regiments during the Civil War. I recommend that DOI begin a public process to weigh designating this location as a national monument.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 included direction to NPS to conduct several special resource studies for civil rights sites in Mississippi. While each location is of interest, one location to highlight is the Medgar Evers Home in Jackson, Mississippi. Mr. Medgar Evers was the first National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) field secretary in Mississippi and organized protests and boycotts against segregation across Mississippi. He was assassinated outside his home in 1963 by a white supremacist. The NPS in 2017 designated his house as a National Historic Landmark. I recommend these sites be examined for possible monument designation.

Another location that may qualify for protection under the Act is the Badger-Two Medicine area, which is approximately 130,000 acres within the Lewis and Clark National Forest in northwestern Montana. It is bounded by Glacier National Park, the Bob Marshall Wilderness, and the Blackfeet Indian Reservation. This area of the Rocky Mountain Front was designated a Traditional Cultural District in May 2014, and is considered sacred by the Blackfeet Nation. I recommend this area be considered for designation as a national monument and as a candidate for co-management with the Blackfeet tribe.

C. Other Monuments

In conducting the review pursuant to the Order, I was asked to consider monuments where the designation or expansion was made without adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders. The review process uncovered inadequate coordination with the sportsmen community, particularly where monument designations were assigned management by the NPS, which are closed to hunting due to NPS regulations that implement its enabling statutes.

One example is the Castle Mountains National Monument (CMNM), which was established by Proclamation No. 9394 on February, 16, 2016. The CMNM consists of approximately 21,000 acres and is managed by the NPS. The CMNM was designated adjacent to the Mojave National Preserve, which by statute permits hunting. However, the CMNM Proclamation is silent as to hunting. As a result, hunting is prohibited within the 21,000-acre Monument, while it is permitted in the adjacent Mojave National Preserve.

I therefore recommend ongoing review of monuments to ensure that while continuing to protect objects, the proclamations prioritize public access; infrastructure upgrades, repair, and maintenance; traditional use; tribal cultural use; and hunting and fishing rights.

D. Management Plans

The DOI heard from many stakeholders that its management plans associated with monuments are restrictive and difficult to navigate. When monuments are designated, the underlying land ownership remains, typically including the applicable management authorities associated with the land-managing agency. The overriding management framework then becomes the protection of the objects of historic or scientific interest. However, there is discretion in this management “overlay,” and the DOI review reveals that this requirement has at times been too strictly interpreted to impede allowable uses under management plans. The DOI plans to undertake a review of existing monument management plans and update them with those considerations in mind. The DOI believes this can be done in a manner that is consistent with public access, infrastructure, traditional use, tribal cultural use, and hunting and fishing rights.

E. Congressional Requests

As noted above in the case of BENM, GBNM, OMDPNM, and RGDNNM, I recommend that you ask Congress to legislate tribal co-management authority and to examine more appropriate public land-use designations. Further, as discussed above, a number of current national monuments were created with inadequate consultation with the state, local, and tribal governments and communities most affected. This has resulted, in many cases, in national monuments that restrict the use of far too much land. I therefore recommend that your Administration work with Congress to develop legislative reforms to prevent similar misuse of the Act in the future.

cc: Director, Office of Management and Budget
Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality

American Antiquities Act of 1906

16 USC 431-433

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who shall appropriate, excavate, injure, or destroy any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of antiquity, situated on lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States, without the permission of the Secretary of the Department of the Government having jurisdiction over the lands on which said antiquities are situated, shall, upon conviction, be fined in a sum of not more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned for a period of not more than ninety days, or shall suffer both fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

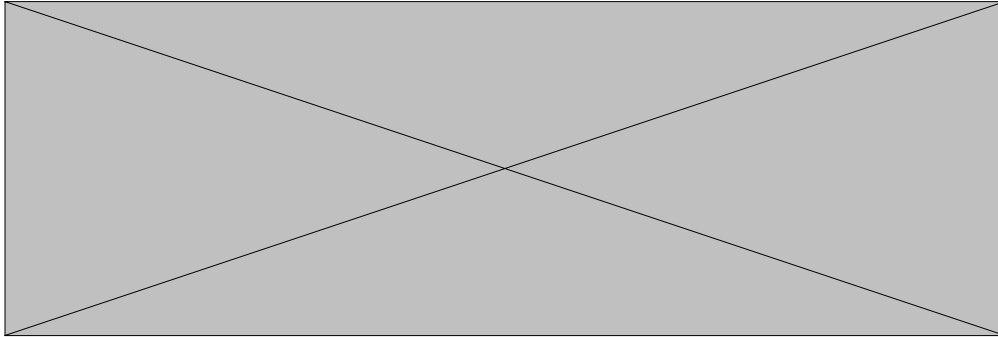
Sec. 2. That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected: Provided, That when such objects are situated upon a tract covered by a bona fied unperfected claim or held in private ownership, the tract, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the proper care and management of the object, may be relinquished to the Government, and the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to accept the relinquishment of such tracts in behalf of the Government of the United States.

Sec. 3. That permits for the examination of ruins, the excavation of archaeological sites, and the gathering of objects of antiquity upon the lands under their respective jurisdictions may be granted by the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and War to institutions which they may deem properly qualified to conduct such examination, excavation, or gathering, subject to such rules and regulation as they may prescribe: Provided, That the examinations, excavations, and gatherings are undertaken for the benefit of reputable museums, universities, colleges, or other recognized scientific or educational institutions, with a view to increasing the knowledge of such objects, and that the gatherings shall be made for permanent preservation in public museums.

Sec. 4. That the Secretaries of the Departments aforesaid shall make and publish from time to time uniform rules and regulations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Approved, June 8, 1906

From: Williams, Timothy
Sent: 2017-12-07T16:08:16-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Alaska's Joe Balash Confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
Received: 2017-12-07T16:09:17-05:00



Date: December 7, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Alaska's Joe Balash Confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management

WASHINGTON Today, the U.S. Senate confirmed President Donald J. Trump's nominee, Joe Balash, to serve as the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. A native of North Pole, Alaska, living in Washington D.C., Balash brings more than 19 years of experience in land and natural resource management.

"I am so glad we finally have an Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals! It's been a while," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "Joe has waited a very long time, and we look forward to his experience being brought to the table at our next meeting. Joe has worked with the Department on a number of projects in Alaska, and his experience will be greatly welcomed. Thank you to the Senate for finally getting Joe to Interior. I'd also like to thank Acting Assistant Secretary Kate MacGregor for doing an amazing job leading the portfolio and making President Trump's first year a banner year for energy dominance and public access."

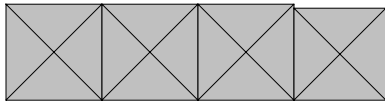
"I am deeply honored to be able to serve at the Department of the Interior," **said Joe Balash**. "As a nation, we are blessed with tremendous public lands and resources that give our people unparalleled opportunities for recreation and job creation for generations to come. I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke and his incredible team to seize on those opportunities and deliver on President Trump's America First Energy Plan."

Joe Balash most recently served as the Chief of Staff to Senator Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) before his confirmation. He is the former Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, which has management responsibility for one of the largest single portfolios of land and water resources in the world, containing more than 100 million acres of uplands, 40-60

million acres of submerged lands and tidelands, and more than 500,000 barrels of oil produced daily.

The Assistant Secretary heads the Department of the Interior's management of all federal lands and waters, and their associated mineral and non-mineral resources, as well as the appropriate regulation of surface coal mining. The Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management is committed to managing, protecting, and improving lands and waters to serve the needs of the American people at all times.

###



--

Tim Williams

Deputy Director External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

Desk: (202) 208 6015

Cell: (202) 706 4982

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-11T12:02:15-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: 1pm EST Conference Call Information
Received: 2017-12-11T12:03:08-05:00

Esteemed Colleagues,

Below is the conference call information per our previous conversation. Please keep this call-in information to yourself and your organizational colleagues.

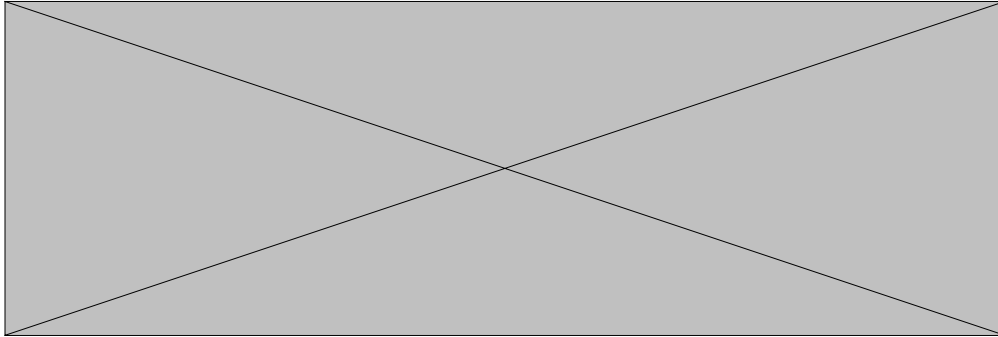
Call-in information: (b)(5)

Password: (b)(5)

MAGA,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-12T15:38:19-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretaries Zinke and Perdue Host Inter-Agency Forestry & Wildfire Listening Session with Federal, Congressional and State Stakeholders.
Received: 2017-12-12T15:39:13-05:00



Date: December 12, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

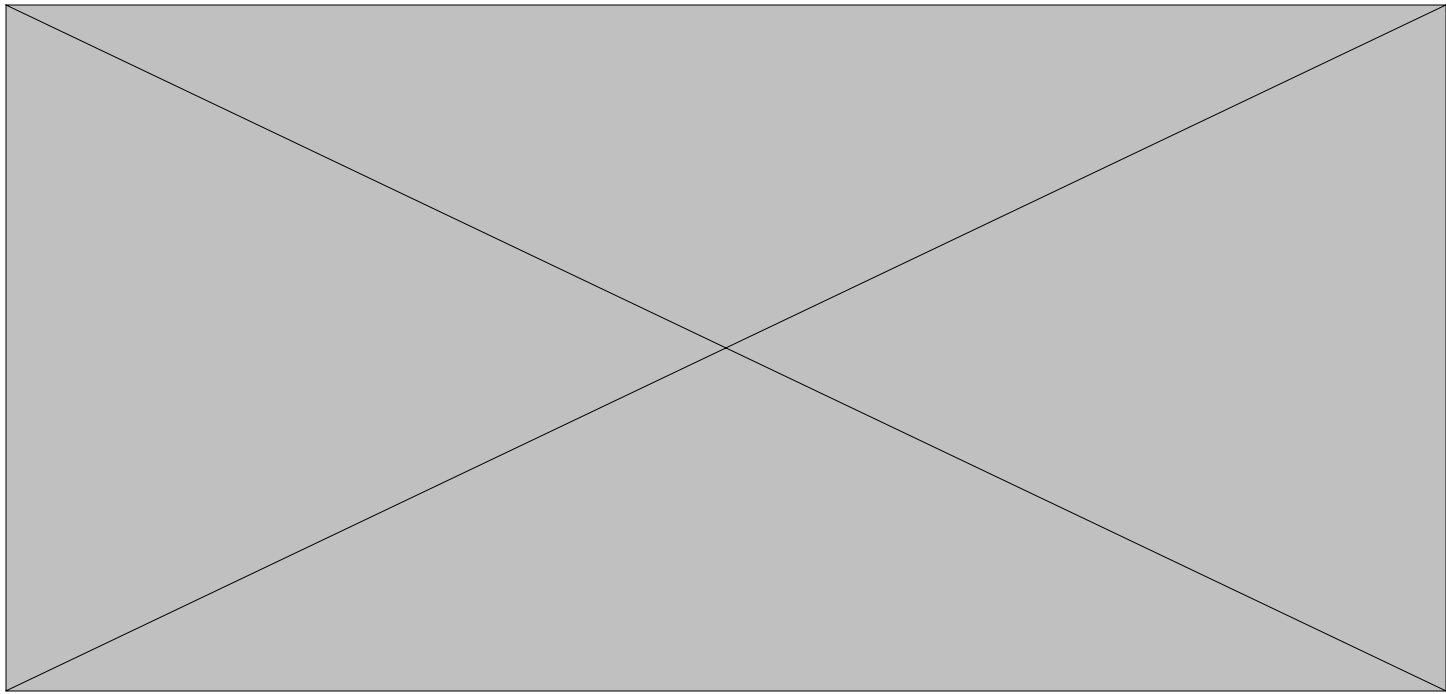
Secretaries Zinke and Perdue Host Inter-Agency Forestry & Wildfire Listening Session with Federal, Congressional and State Stakeholders.

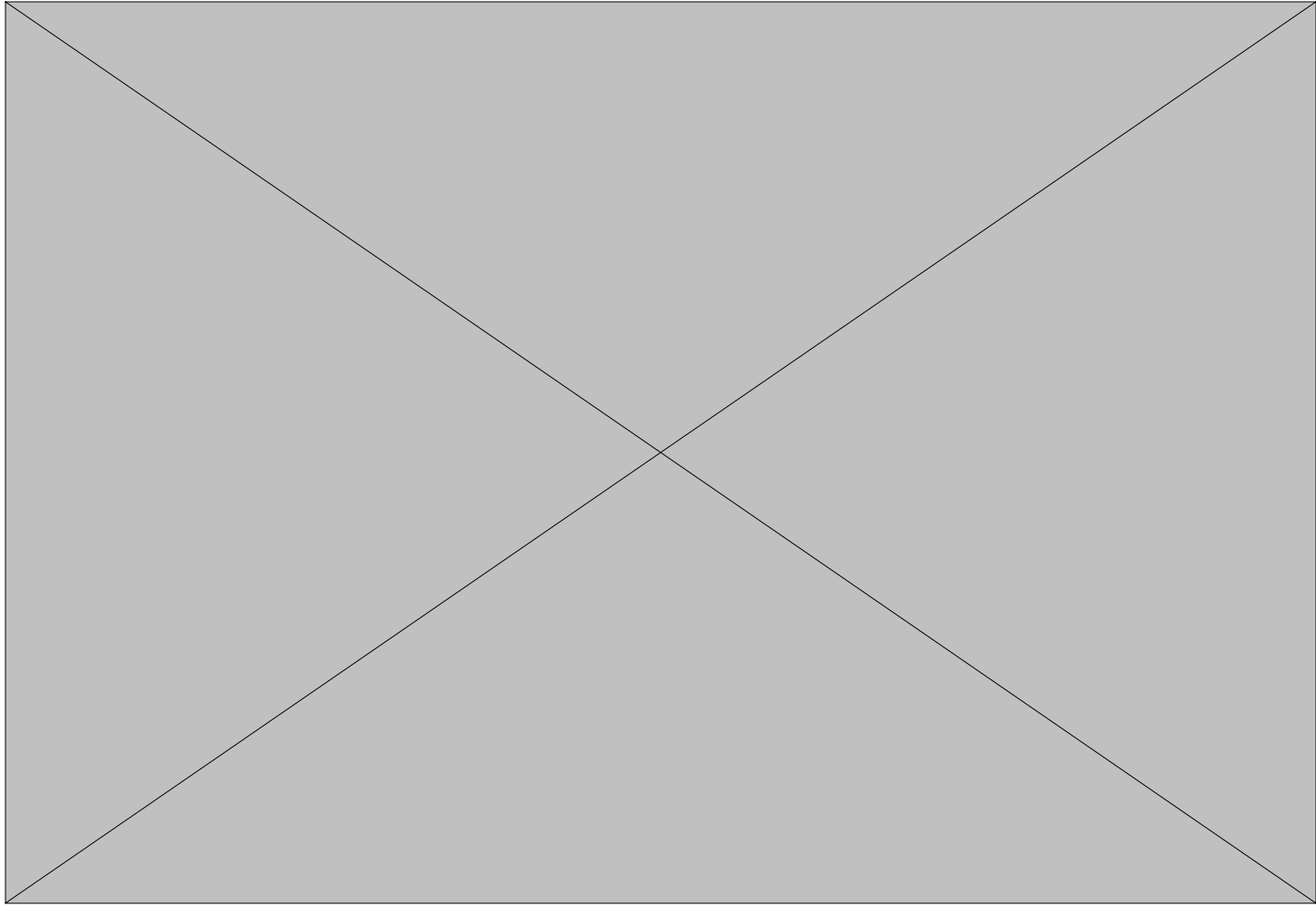
WASHINGTON Yesterday, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue hosted an inter-agency listening session with federal, congressional, and state stakeholders. Photos for media use are available [here](#).

"Wildfires affect all of us so it only makes sense that we all work together to prevent and fight them," **said Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "Our inter-agency and partner meeting was the first of what I hope will be many to identify and implement better practices to manage our forests and save lives and communities."

"Yesterday was a good opportunity to reflect on the 2017 fire season, to recognize what did and didn't work, and to collaborate on how we can move forward into 2018," **Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said**. "With this being the costliest fire season in history, it is clear that we need a permanent fix to fire funding. I'm encouraged by the work being done in Congress and it's imperative that we continue to communicate with stakeholders, so we can figure out how best to work together to manage forests and ultimately prevent fires the best that we can."

Accompanied by House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (UT), Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR) and stakeholders representing conservation, hunting, forestry, and state associations, conversation centered around fixing the wildfire funding problems, possible improvements to wildfire management, innovative ways to detect and suppress wildfires, and ways to improve cooperation between industry, state, and federal authorities.





Next steps include figuring out which discussion points could become action items before the next season and sharing them with agency, state, and congressional partners.

A partial list of officials attending today's listening session is below.

Senior Federal Officials

- Secretary Ryan Zinke
- Secretary Sonny Perdue
- Chairman Rob Bishop
- Congressman Bruce Westerman

Federal Officials

- Director of Wildland Fire, Jeff Rupert
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of Public Safety, Resource Protection, Emergency Services, Harry Humbert
- Director of Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bryan Rice
- Acting Director of National Parks, Mike Reynolds

- Principal Deputy Director of the USFWS, Greg Sheehan

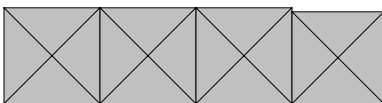
Conservation and Hunting Partners

- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Boone and Crockett
- National Wild Turkey Foundation

Forestry Partners

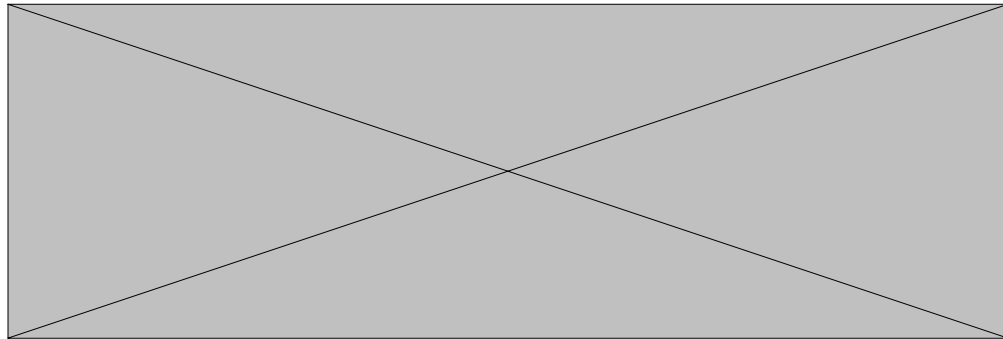
- National Alliance of Forest Owners
- Federal Forest Resource Coalition
- National Association of State Foresters
- American Forest Resource Council
- Montana Wood Products Association
- Intermountain Forest Association
- American Loggers Council
- Public Lands Council
- American Forest Foundation
- Land Owner
- National Association of Homebuilders
- Maine Forest Products Council
- Forest Resource Association
- Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
- Hardwood Federation

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-12T16:12:34-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Sends Nearly \$20 Million in Timber Dollars to Rural Oregon, Doubles Down on Commitment to Future Harvests
Received: 2017-12-12T16:13:10-05:00

A previous press release that may have not been sent out...



Date: November 30, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Sends Nearly \$20 Million in Timber Dollars to Rural Oregon, Doubles Down on Commitment to Future Harvests

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced today that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will issue payments totaling \$19.5 million to 18 counties in western Oregon, which includes \$1.4 million previously sequestered funds. Under the previous administration, the sequestered funds were not scheduled to be disbursed to the counties however after working with the counties and the Office of Management and Budget, the Secretary was able to deliver the full funding.

"O&C lands were specifically set aside for sustainable timber harvests and they are an important part of the economic foundation of western Oregon," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Working with the county officials we were able to get these much-needed funds to the local communities, but my next priority is ensuring that these lands continue to provide sustainable timber harvests that support the community and strengthen the health of the forest."

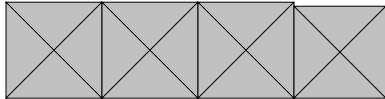
"We are happy to report the 18 O&C Counties will receive these disbursements, including those withheld payments, very soon," **said Commissioner Tim Freeman of Douglas County, the Association of O&C Counties' President**. "We give full credit to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for his willingness to work with us to persuade OMB to release these sequestered funds. We are also grateful to Congressman Walden for his assistance in facilitating communications between the Association and the Department of the Interior. Every County will use these much-needed

funds for vital services according to their local priorities, from public safety and juvenile programs to elections departments and infrastructure maintenance, and everything in between."

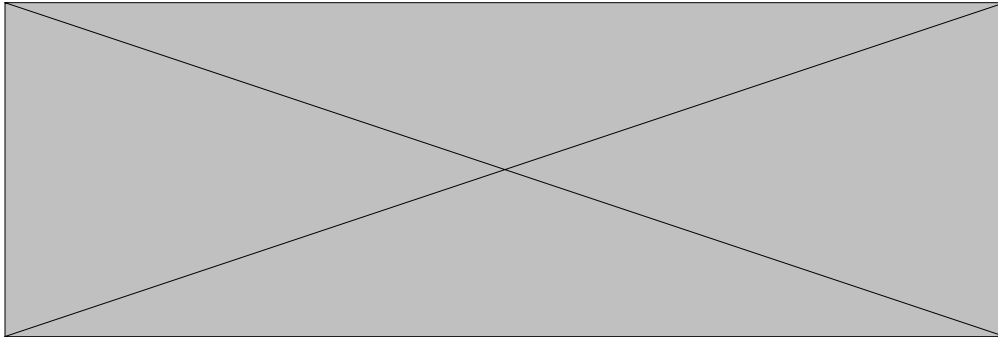
"The announcement that our communities will receive the full timber receipts payments they are owed under the law is great news," **said Chairman Greg Walden.** "These resources will be critical to funding essential county services from law enforcement and emergency operations to schools and infrastructure projects. I want to especially thank Secretary Zinke and his team for working so closely with the O&C counties to ensure these funds are disbursed, and for their continued commitment to improving forest management and supporting our local communities in southern Oregon."

Located in 18 counties of western Oregon, the Oregon and California Railroad Lands comprise nearly 2.6 million acres of forests that is managed by the BLM. The 18 O&C counties receive yearly payments under the O&C Act equal to 50 percent of receipts from timber harvested on public lands in these counties. These payments follow a formula established in the 1937 Oregon and California Lands Act, which authorizes timber receipt-based payments to western Oregon counties, and which remains in effect following the expiration of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-13T18:23:15-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Praises President Trump and Congress for Authorizing Palau Compact Agreement in FY 2018 NDAA
Received: 2017-12-13T18:24:04-05:00



Date: December 13, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Praises President Trump and Congress for Authorizing Palau Compact Agreement in FY 2018 NDAA

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today thanked President Trump and commended the U.S. Congress for including authorization for the Palau Compact Review Agreement in the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. Signed into law yesterday by the President, the enactment officially authorizes the strategic agreement signed between the United States and Palau governments in 2010.

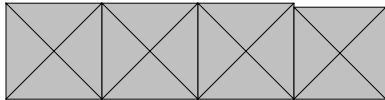
“The U.S. Insular Areas are on the front lines of North Korean aggression and are an important part of the strategic defense for our nation,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Authorizing full funding for the agreement is an important element of the Pacific national security strategy to maintain stability in the Western Pacific Region and we look forward to continuing our work with Congress to get this job done. President Trump’s strong support for the agreement, the Department’s budget request, and Congress’ support for it all point to the strategic importance of our U.S. Territories and the Freely Associated States. I have served with a number of warriors from the islands and I look forward to visiting the people of Palau in my role as Secretary.”

“Finalization of this agreement with Palau is long overdue,” **said Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech**. “Interior, State and Defense have collaborated extensively in support of the Palau Compact Agreement and we look forward to final action from Congress to provide the appropriations necessary to finalize this important U.S. Government commitment to Palau.”

President Trump called for \$123.9 million to implement the agreement in his proposed budget for FY 2018..

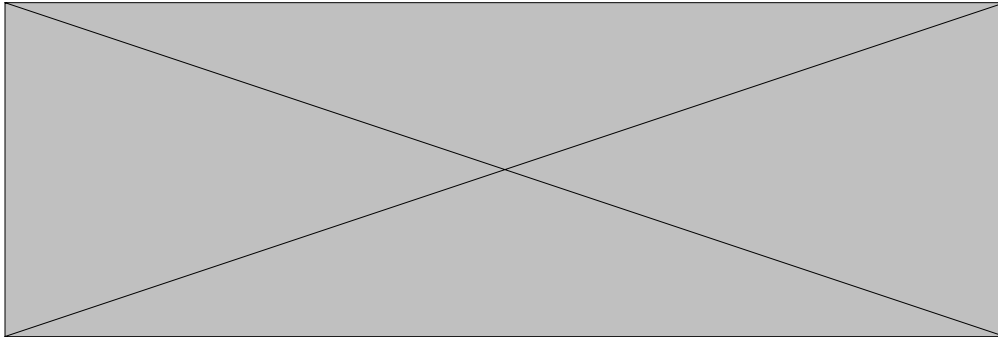
The U.S. Government and Palau signed the agreement in 2010, which proposed continued U.S. financial assistance totaling \$229 million through 2024. At the time, full funding for the pact was not authorized. Beginning with FY 2010, subsequent Interior and discretionary appropriations acts have extended annual economic assistance to Palau of approximately \$13.1 million a year for a total of \$105.2 million in discretionary funds thus far. These funds are provided to assist the Government of Palau in its efforts to advance the well-being of its people and in recognition of the special relationship that exists between the United States and Palau.

###



.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-14T13:58:52-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Continues Steps Toward Department-Wide Culture Change with Release of Work Environment Survey Results
Received: 2017-12-14T13:59:28-05:00



Date: December 14, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Continues Steps Toward Department-Wide Culture Change with Release of Work Environment Survey Results

First survey of its scope shows 35 Percent of DOI employees harassed, discriminated against

WASHINGTON Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior released results from a [Work Environment Survey](#) that shows 35 percent of its employees were harassed or discriminated against in the 12 months preceding the anonymous survey. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt, who have been on the forefront of instilling a culture change through swift personnel actions, transparency and a zero-tolerance policy, have issued a call for action plans from all bureau and office heads across the Department.

The Work Environment Survey was sent during the period of January 9 to March 5, 2017 to all DOI personnel employed as of December 10, 2016. CFI Group, a third-party contractor to the Department of the Interior, conducted the survey and developed the report that was released today. The survey results come two months after the National Park Service and Secretary Zinke [announced the NPS-specific results](#) from the same survey.

“From day one, I made it clear that I have zero tolerance for any type of workplace harassment, and I have directed leadership across the entire Department to move rapidly to improve accountability and transparency with regard to this absolutely intolerable behavior,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “All employees have the right to work in a safe and harassment-free environment. I’ve already fired a number of predators who other administrations were too afraid to remove or just turned a blind eye to. Under my leadership we don’t protect predators. When I say ‘zero tolerance’ I mean that these people will be held accountable for their abhorrent actions.”

The survey, which is the first of its scope done across the federal government, was designed to assess workplace conditions that Interior employees experience, including the prevalence and context of all forms of harassment. 28,203 employees responded to the survey, or a 44% response rate. Results showed that 20.5 percent of employees experienced age-related harassment, 16.5 percent experienced harassment because of their gender, 9.3 percent because of their race or ethnicity, and 8 percent experienced sexual harassment. Other forms of harassment that were surveyed were religion (7.1 percent), disability (6.1 percent) and sexual orientation (3.6 percent). 0.74 percent of respondents experienced a sexual assault.

CHANGING THE CULTURE

In a memo sent today to bureau and office heads, Deputy Secretary Bernhardt directed each to develop and submit a formal action plan within 45 days to address their specific survey results. Those plans, which will also be sent to the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget, will include a schedule for accomplishing those actions and a description of how they will assess success.

“Intimidation, harassment, and discrimination are viruses within an operation, and have no place at Interior,” **said Deputy Secretary Bernhardt**. “The previous administration failed to aggressively address these problems and it shows. The culture across the Department will change. It’s up to all levels of management to ensure that our employees have a healthy work environment that empowers them to be productive and effective for the American people. And if managers are the problem, we will deal with of them.”

The Department has revised the performance standards for managers and supervisors to ensure that their future performance ratings will reflect their success or failure in holding employees accountable for harassing conduct. In addition, the new Department harassment policy which is now in draft form will implement a mandatory reporting process for reporting allegations of harassing conduct up the chain of command. This reporting structure will ensure that misconduct is not ignored and that appropriate disciplinary action is taken.

Since the Department received initial survey results, Interior has:

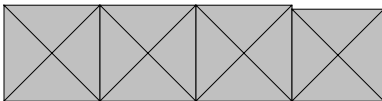
- Issued the National Park Service Anti-Harassment Policy and its accompanying draft Reference Manual in October. NPS has been collecting employee comments on the Reference Manual and will finalize it soon. The new NPS anti-harassment policy has been strengthened by defining more broadly what is prohibited harassing conduct to ensure that employees can be held accountable for harassing conduct even if such behavior may not rise to the level of illegal harassment under EEO laws. This should serve as template for other bureaus and offices
- Drafted a Department-wide harassing conduct policy that is similar to the NPS Anti-Harassment Policy; it defines more broadly prohibited harassing conduct to allow managers to hold employees accountable for conduct that may not rise to the level of illegal harassment. The Policy will have a reporting structure to ensure that management knows when allegations of harassing conduct are raised and that matters are investigated quickly.

- Issued an Investigator Guide to Conducting Administrative Investigations. The guidance sets consistent high standards, ensuring that misconduct investigations, including those dealing with harassing conduct, are conducted in a thorough, impartial and fair manner, and any resulting disciplinary or other actions are defensible.
- Trained close to 100 employee relations and employment law practitioners on conducting administrative investigations into allegations of misconduct.
- Expanded the cadre of ombuds professionals available, with most Bureaus now having a dedicated ombuds resource in place.
- Created/updated dedicated internal and external employee webpages with resources on harassment, discrimination and retaliation.

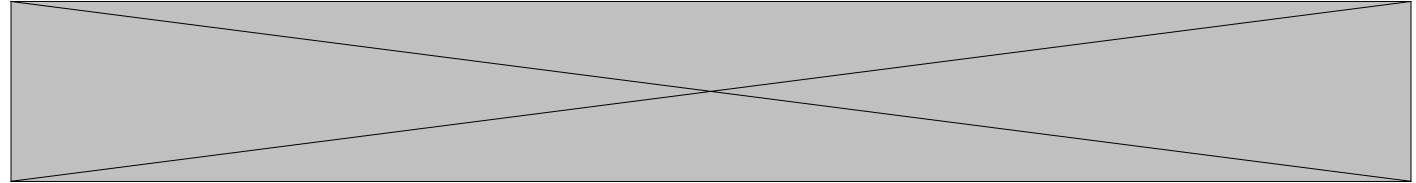
“These survey results don’t illustrate a new problem, but they will help us target where we must dedicate efforts and resources to fix a problem that has festered for years,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “We are now continuing the needed steps in creating plans across all of our bureaus and offices to ensure that every employee feels, not only safe on a daily basis, but also empowered to speak up should they feel harassed or discriminated against.”

Department employees who have experienced harassment or discrimination can find a wide variety of resources at [DOI.gov/employees](https://www.doi.gov/employees).

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-14T14:13:14-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Reclamation launches prize competition looking to eradicate invasive quagga and zebra mussels
Received: 2017-12-14T14:14:04-05:00



**Commissioner's Office
Washington, DC**

Media Contact: Peter Soeth, pssoeth@usbr.gov, 303-445-3615

For Immediate Release: December 14, 2017

Bureau of Reclamation launches prize competition looking to eradicate invasive quagga and zebra mussels

Winners of the prize competition will have an innovative solution for 100-percent eradication and will share a prize purse of \$100,000

WASHINGTON - The Bureau of Reclamation has launched a new prize competition seeking innovative solutions for the 100-percent eradication of invasive quagga and zebra mussels from large reservoirs, lakes and rivers in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner. Invasive mussel infestations pose significant logistical and economic challenges for local communities, recreationists, and water managers by potentially disrupting water deliveries, increasing facility maintenance cost, and impacting the local ecology.

"Currently, no known broad scale application for open water exists to safely eradicate mussels in an environmentally sound manner," Reclamation's Science Advisor David Raff said.

Solutions may be novel treatments or approaches that build upon existing treatments. They must be specific to invasive mussels without significant harm to non-target organisms such as native mussels or threatened and endangered species. They must already be in compliance with existing federal discharge permits and environmental protection regulations or must be implementable with reasonable modifications to existing regulations. Successful treatments must be cost-effective and scalable to large water bodies.

The challenge will consist of three stages. Stage one is a theoretical challenge. It requires the submission of a white paper that describes novel treatments/methods for open-water mussel eradication. Reclamation is making a total prize purse of \$100,000 available, to be divided among a maximum of five winners. If successful, stage two is planned to provide proof-of-concept in a laboratory-scale demonstration.

Reclamation is collaborating with the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Molloy & Associates.

This prize competition is part of a series of initiatives that were developed through a collaboration with western governors and federal, state and Tribal agencies and highlighted by Secretary of the Interior

Ryan Zinke last June. Read the [full list of actions](#).

Learn more by visiting <https://www.usbr.gov/research/challenges/mussels.html>.

#

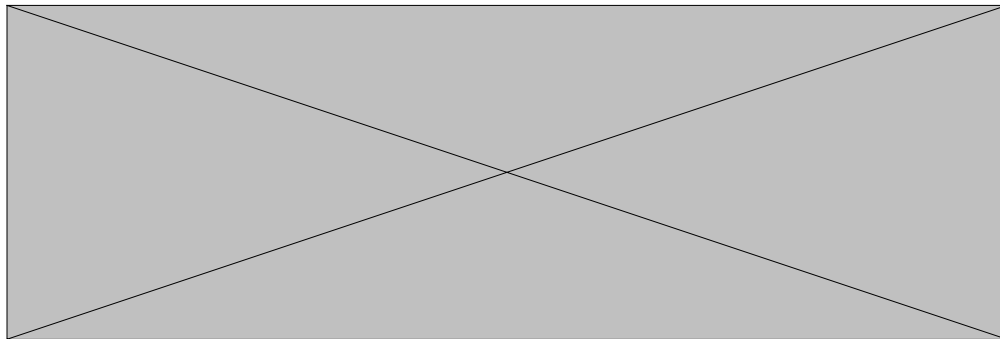
Reclamation is the largest wholesale water supplier in the United States, and the nation's second largest producer of hydroelectric power. Its facilities also provide substantial flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife benefits. Visit our website at <https://www.usbr.gov/> and follow us on Twitter [@USBR](#).

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-19T13:40:32-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: GROUNDBREAKING REPORT: U.S. RELIANT ON CHINA, RUSSIA, OTHER FOREIGN NATIONS FOR MANY CRITICAL MINERALS
Received: 2017-12-19T13:41:13-05:00
[Critical Minerals - Power Point Info.pdf](#)
[Critical Minerals Fact Sheet Q&A.pdf](#)

Esteemed MAGA Colleagues,
Attached you will find a fact sheet/Q&A, a power point highlighting some aspects of this critical minerals report, and the official press release.

More information will be coming regarding this topic yet feel free to reach out to me for more details. Please share any announcements, op-eds, and press releases you or others may generate regarding this announcement in the next few days/weeks.

Merry Christmas to All,
Jason Funes



Date: December 19, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

GROUNDBREAKING REPORT: U.S. RELIANT ON CHINA, RUSSIA, OTHER FOREIGN NATIONS FOR MANY CRITICAL MINERALS

U.S. 100 percent foreign-reliant on 20 minerals, Rare Earth minerals produced almost exclusively in China

WASHINGTON Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Geological Survey released a report that detailed the extent to which the United States is fully, majorly, or partially dependent upon foreign competitors and even adversaries for our supply of "critical minerals." The report identified 23 of the minerals that are most-needed to sustain our national defense and economy and are used in manufacturing everything from batteries and computer chips to

equipment used by our military. The report shows a troubling trend of foreign dependency.

"I commend the team of scientists at USGS for the extensive work put into the report, but the findings are shocking," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "The fact that previous administrations allowed the United States to become reliant on foreign nations, including our competitors and adversaries, for minerals that are so strategically important to our security and economy is deeply troubling. As both a former military commander and geologist, I know the very real national security risk of relying on foreign nations for what the military needs to keep our soldiers and our homeland safe."

The report found the United States is most reliant on China for critical minerals with at least 20 critical minerals being sourced exclusively in China. Russia, South Africa, Brazil and Canada also supply many of our minerals.

The mineral commodities highlighted in this book have been called critical or strategic owing to concerns about risk of supply interruption and the cost of such a disruption. Such critical mineral commodities include rare-earth elements, used in high-end electronics, and platinum-group elements, used in catalytic converters and petroleum refining.

"The best part of this report is that we can provide complete minerals information for the Nation for the first time in generations," **said Klaus Schulz, an editor and author of the volume**. "The USGS combines short- and medium-term data on the current global supply of minerals with research on the long-term potential of these minerals through our mineral-resource assessments. Despite current supply concerns, one thing we shouldn't lose sight of is that we will also need mineral commodities far into the future. We wanted to identify future needs too, so we included information to help plan for the sustainable development of each of these minerals."

This report updates another USGS report from 1973, which was published when many of the commodities that are covered in this new volume were only of minor importance. Today, advanced technologies have increased the demand for and production of mineral commodities for nearly all elements in the periodic table.

For instance, in the 1970s, rare-earth elements had few uses outside of some specialty fields, and were produced mostly in the United States. Today, rare-earth elements are integral to nearly all high-end electronics and are produced almost entirely in China.

According to the recently released USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries 2017, the United States was 100 percent net import reliant on 20 mineral commodities in 2016, including manganese, niobium, tantalum and several of the other mineral commodities covered in the new volume.

This number has risen dramatically over the past 60 years. For example, in 1954 the United States was 100 percent import reliant for the supply of only eight nonfuel mineral commodities and by 1984 for 11 commodities.

Since 1973, there has also been a significant increase in knowledge about geologic and

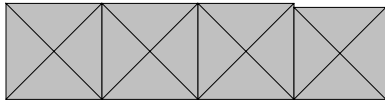
environmental issues related to production and use. This report addresses the sustainable development of each mineral commodity in order that the current needs of the Nation can be met without limiting the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

For each mineral commodity, the authors address how the commodity is used, the location of identified resources and their distribution nationally and globally, the state of current geologic knowledge, potential for finding additional deposits, and geoenvironmental issues that may be related to the production and uses of these mineral commodities.

The volume, USGS Professional Paper 1802, is entitled “Critical Mineral Resources in the United States Economic and Environmental Geology and Prospects for Future Supply”. The USGS also regularly produces mineral information products, such as the yearly Mineral Commodity Summaries, the Minerals Yearbook, and mineral-resource assessments.

For more information on this book and mineral-resource science, please visit the USGS Mineral Resources Program at <https://minerals.usgs.gov>.

###





Mineral Resources Program

USGS Professional Paper 1802 — Critical Mineral Resources of the United States

Lawrence D. Meinert

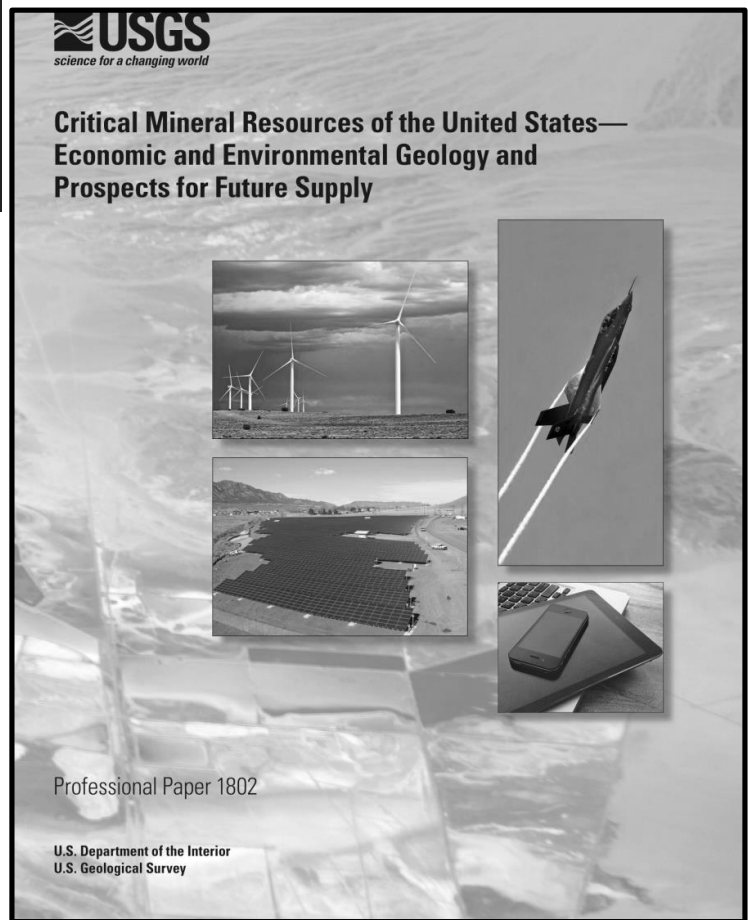
Deputy Associate Director – Energy and Minerals

December 18, 2017

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

Critical Mineral Resources of the United States

- This new publication provides factual information on 23 mineral commodities critical to the Nation's economy, security, and everyday life.
- However, which minerals are “critical” changes through time....



Changes in Element Importance through Time

New uses for elements are discovered as technology progresses.

One example: The number of elements used in computer chip technology has changed:

- 12 in the 1980s
- 16 in the 1990s
- Over 60 by the 2000s



The image displays three periodic tables of elements, each representing a different decade and the number of elements used in computer chip technology. The tables are arranged vertically. The top table is for the 1980s (12 elements), the middle for the 1990s (16 elements), and the bottom for the 2000s (over 60 elements). The elements are highlighted in different colors to show the progression of usage over time. The 1980s table highlights 12 elements, the 1990s table highlights 16 elements, and the 2000s table highlights over 60 elements. The tables are labeled '1980s (12 elements)', '1990s (16 elements)', and '2000s (>60 elements)' respectively.

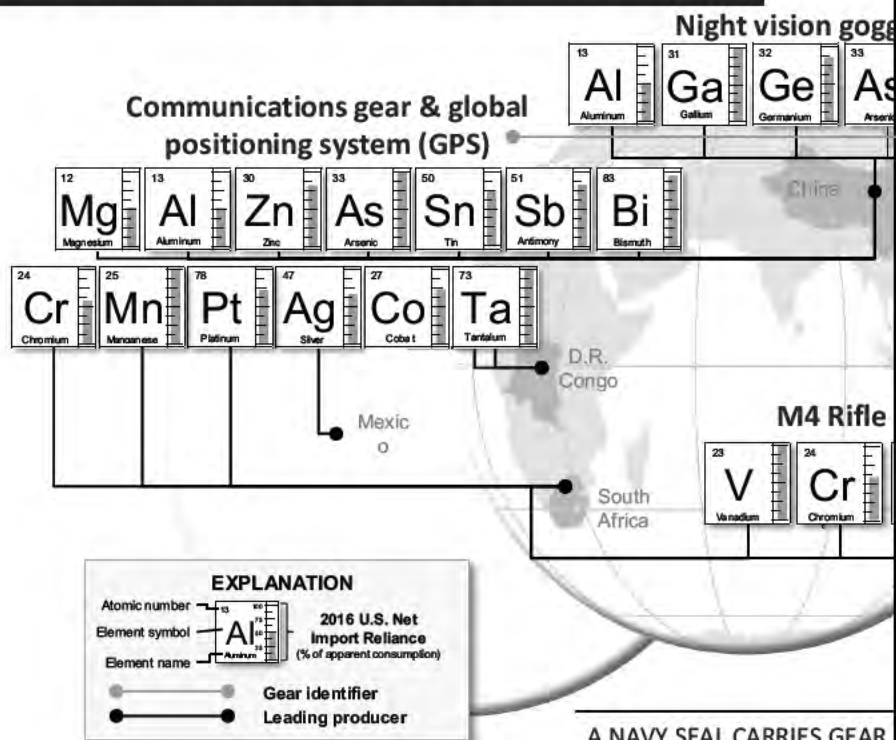
What is a Critical Mineral? — Definition in USGS Prof. Paper 1802

- Mineral commodities that have important uses and no viable substitutes, yet face potential disruption in supply, are defined as **critical** to the Nation's economic and national security.
- A mineral commodity's importance and the nature of its supply chain can change with time, such that a mineral commodity that may have been considered critical 25 years ago may not be critical now, and one considered critical now may not be so in the future.

Critical means you need it, strategic means you don't have it.



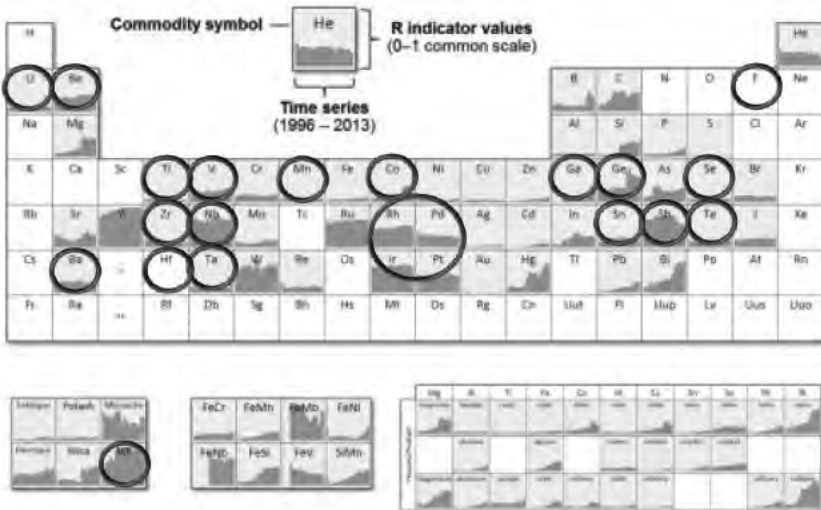
CRITICAL METALS IN SEAL GEAR



A NAVY SEAL CARRIES GEAR
AT LEAST 17 METALS
FOR WHICH THE US
>50% IMPORT RELIANCE



Critical Mineral Resources of the United States



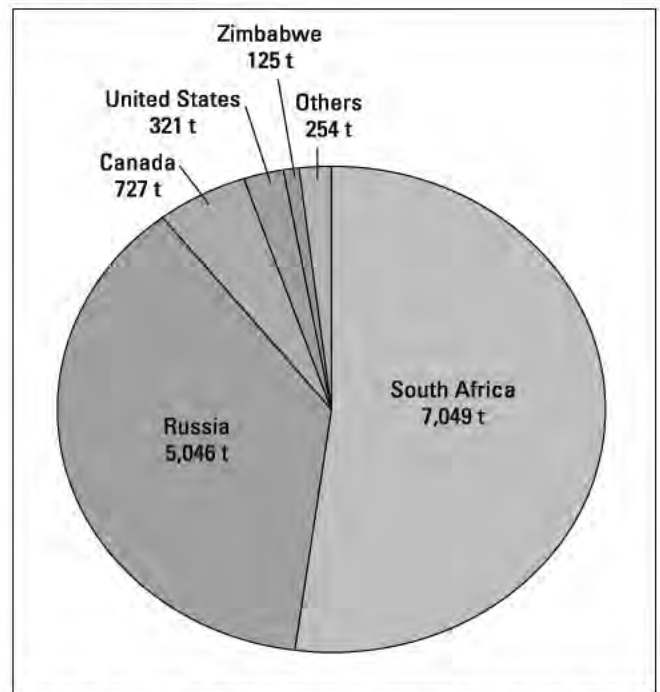
○ Mineral commodity in Prof. Paper 1802.

Prof. Paper 1802 covers 23 mineral commodities.

- For all but two commodities in the publication (beryllium and titanium), the US is over 50% reliant on foreign sources.
- Eight of the commodities are on the USGS's current list of "critical" minerals.

Platinum Group Elements (PGEs) — An Example of Critical Mineral Resources

- Although PGEs are produced in the U.S. (Stillwater mine, Montana), the vast majority of PGEs come from only two countries – South Africa and Russia.
- Because of their economic importance, increasing usage worldwide, and potential supply risks, PGEs are currently considered “critical” minerals.



Pie chart of world PGE production 1960-2011

Rare Earth Elements (REEs)— Another example of Critical Mineral Resources

- **Light REEs (LREE)**
 - Lanthanum
 - Cerium
 - Praseodymium
 - Neodymium
 - Samarium
 - Europium
 - Gadolinium
- **Heavy REEs (HREE)**
 - Yttrium
 - Terbium
 - Dysprosium
 - Holmium
 - Erbium
 - Ytterbium
 - Lutetium
- **Key properties:**
 - Unique magnetic and optical properties
- **Uses:**
 - Permanent magnets – hard drives, cell phones, electric motors, actuators in aircraft
 - Battery alloys
 - Lasers, microwave equipment, superconductors, nuclear control rods
 - Steelmaking
 - Petroleum refining catalysts
 - Phosphors for cathode ray tubes, flat panel displays, LEDs, MRI
 - Pigments for ceramics and glass



REE Mineral Deposits

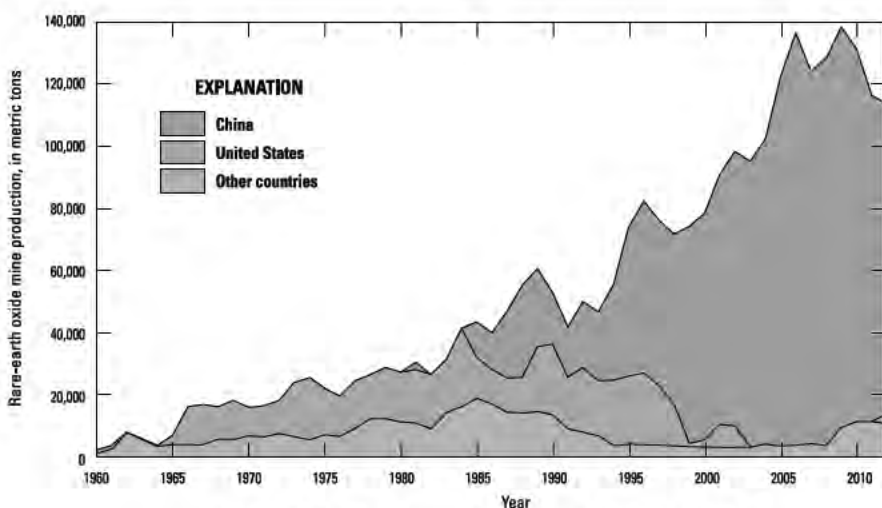


Map of known world REE deposits



- All the REEs (except promethium) are more abundant than silver, gold, or platinum in the Earth's crust on average — they are not rare.
- However, deposits of concentrated REEs are unusual and are found in uncommon geological settings.
- A wide variety of REE deposits are known — including many in the U.S. (Bokan Mtn., AK; Elk Creek, NB; Bear Lodge, WY).

REEs – Strategic and Critical Resource Issues



World REE production 1960-2011



- China has been the leading producer of both REEs for decades and since the 1990's has accounted for over 90% of global production.
- China has in the past restricted supplies of REEs through imposition of quotas, licenses, and taxes.

Critical Mineral Resources of the United States

- Professional Paper 1802 represents a significant improvement of available data on the Nation's critical mineral resources.
- However, the publication (begun in 2013) does not include several mineral commodities that are now recognized as “critical” by the USGS:
 - Bismuth
 - Ferromolybdenum
 - Mercury
 - Nickel
 - Phosphate
 - Strontium
 - Tungsten

The USGS will continue to update existing data on mineral resources and add new data on mineral resources deemed critical.



Critical Minerals of the United States

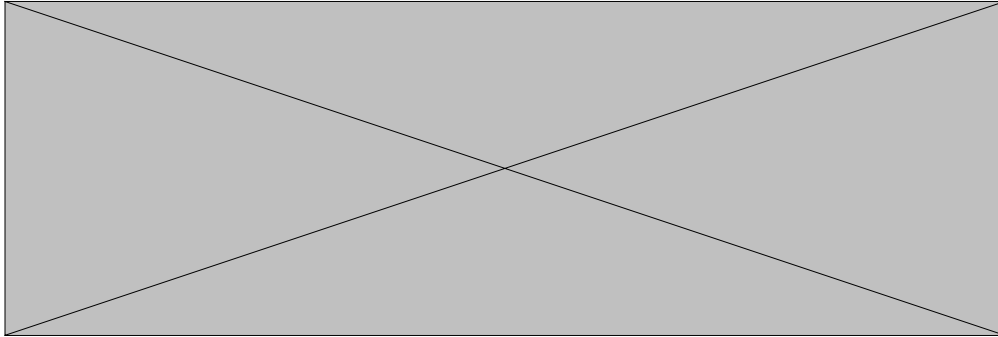
Q&As for USGS Professional Paper 1802

1. Who will use this report?
 - a. We hope this report will be used by national security experts, economists, and resource managers with an interest in the minerals that are critical to the economy and security of the United States, as well as geoscientists. Our previous version of this report, published in the 1970s, has been one of the most-used and most-cited reports in our agency's history.
2. Why these minerals?
 - a. These minerals were chosen because of their importance to the economy or security of the United States. Twenty of them were included in the previous report, issued in the 1970s, but required updated chapters either because we use them differently or the supply changed significantly. Three of the mineral reports are new and reflect the ongoing evolution of our electronics.
3. Are these all the minerals that are critical today?
 - a. No. The minerals in this volume were chosen in 2013 when work started on this publication. Since that time the USGS has developed a quantitative method to determine what minerals are critical. The current list of critical mineral commodities includes others that are not described in the volume. The USGS will undertake new work to describe these mineral commodities.
4. What has changed the most since the 1970s?
 - a. Our electronics, primarily. Today, advanced technologies have increased the demand for and production of mineral commodities for nearly all elements in the periodic table. For instance, in the 1970s, rare-earth elements had few uses outside of some specialty fields, and were produced mostly in the United States. Today, rare-earth elements are integral to nearly all high-end electronics and are produced almost entirely in China.
5. Which are the most important minerals in this report?
 - a. Each of these minerals is vital to an industry, and all of them are important to our economy and security. Using our critical mineral forecasting tool, though, we can say that eight of the minerals can be considered critical.
6. What are critical and strategic minerals? What's the difference?
 - a. They are those that are vital for the Nation's economic and national security; that have important uses; and that have no viable substitutes or could face potential disruptions in supply. Critical means you need it, strategic means you don't have it.
7. What are some examples of critical minerals?
 - a. Rare Earth Elements: Used in electronics such as smartphones, wind turbines, and defense computing.
 - b. Platinum Group Metals: The largest user of the platinum group metals is the automotive industry, but they're also used in petroleum refining and jewelry

- c. Manganese: Used in speciality steels and in some batteries.
 - d. Gallium: Used in semiconductor production, light-emitting diodes, and solar panels.
 - e. Germanium: Used in specialty alloys and as a phosphor.
 - f. Niobium: Used in superalloys for jet engines and fire-resistant equipment.
 - g. Tantalum: Alloys that increase strength, durability, and corrosion resistance as well as in capacitors and resistors.
 - h. Antimony: Used in batteries and infrared detectors.
8. Does the United States have enough minerals?
- a. The United States is richly endowed with mineral resources throughout the country. In 2016, the United States mined \$74.6 billion worth of minerals, with crushed stone, cement, sand & gravel, gold, and copper accounting for 68.5% of that value. Nevada, Arizona, California, Texas, and Minnesota led the United States in mineral production value in 2016, accounting for about one third of the total value.
9. Why don't we mine more in the United States?
- a. The commonly long lead time in establishing permits and the lack of geological and geophysical data similar to other countries with significant mining such as Australia and Canada.
10. Why are we so dependent on foreign sources for our minerals?
- a. The case is different for each mineral commodity. In the case of rare earths, the United States has numerous deposits but has been undercut in production costs by China. For the platinum group elements there are very few major deposits in the world. Those known include a deposit in Russia and a number of deposits in South Africa. While we have one significant deposit in Montana it is not large enough to supply the Nation's demand. Several of the metals, including gallium and germanium, are produced as a by-product of other metal production – aluminum in the case of gallium and zinc in the case of germanium. Thus, the amounts of these metals, often produced outside the United States, determine what is available in the market.
11. Where are the minerals in the United States?
- a. Studying the occurrence and formation of mineral resources throughout the United States is a priority for the USGS. Mineral production occurs in all 50 states, primarily crushed stone, cement, and sand & gravel operations. Other mineral resources, like iron, copper, gold, and zinc, are more concentrated.
 - b. For instance, in 2016, eleven states individually produced more than \$2 billion worth of nonfuel mineral commodities in 2016. These states were (in descending order of value): Nevada, Arizona, Texas, California, Minnesota, Florida, Alaska, Michigan, Wyoming, Missouri and Utah.
 - c. Arizona led the Nation in copper production in 2016, while Nevada led the Nation in gold production, Minnesota produced the most iron ore, and Alaska produced the most zinc.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-19T14:34:56-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: GROUNDBREAKING REPORT: U.S. RELIANT ON CHINA, RUSSIA, OTHER FOREIGN NATIONS FOR MANY CRITICAL MINERALS
Received: 2017-12-19T14:35:38-05:00

One step closer to making Tax Reform Great Again,



Date: December 19, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

GROUNDBREAKING REPORT: U.S. RELIANT ON CHINA, RUSSIA, OTHER FOREIGN NATIONS FOR MANY CRITICAL MINERALS

U.S. 100 percent foreign-reliant on 20 minerals, Rare Earth minerals produced almost exclusively in China

WASHINGTON Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Geological Survey released a report that detailed the extent to which the United States is fully, majorly, or partially dependent upon foreign competitors and even adversaries for our supply of "critical minerals." The report identified 23 of the minerals that are most-needed to sustain our national defense and economy and are used in manufacturing everything from batteries and computer chips to equipment used by our military. The report shows a troubling trend of foreign dependency.

"I commend the team of scientists at USGS for the extensive work put into the report, but the findings are shocking," said **U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "The fact that previous administrations allowed the United States to become reliant on foreign nations, including our competitors and adversaries, for minerals that are so strategically important to our security and economy is deeply troubling. As both a former military commander and geologist, I know the very real national security risk of relying on foreign nations for what the military needs to keep our soldiers and our homeland safe."

The report found the United States is most reliant on China for critical minerals with at least 20 critical minerals being sourced exclusively in China. Russia, South Africa, Brazil and Canada also supply many of our minerals.

The mineral commodities highlighted in this book have been called critical or strategic owing to concerns about risk of supply interruption and the cost of such a disruption. Such critical mineral commodities include rare-earth elements, used in high-end electronics, and platinum-group elements, used in catalytic converters and petroleum refining.

“The best part of this report is that we can provide complete minerals information for the Nation for the first time in generations,” **said Klaus Schulz, an editor and author of the volume.** “The USGS combines short- and medium-term data on the current global supply of minerals with research on the long-term potential of these minerals through our mineral-resource assessments. Despite current supply concerns, one thing we shouldn’t lose sight of is that we will also need mineral commodities far into the future. We wanted to identify future needs too, so we included information to help plan for the sustainable development of each of these minerals.”

This report updates another USGS report from 1973, which was published when many of the commodities that are covered in this new volume were only of minor importance. Today, advanced technologies have increased the demand for and production of mineral commodities for nearly all elements in the periodic table.

For instance, in the 1970s, rare-earth elements had few uses outside of some specialty fields, and were produced mostly in the United States. Today, rare-earth elements are integral to nearly all high-end electronics and are produced almost entirely in China.

According to the recently released USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries 2017, the United States was 100 percent net import reliant on 20 mineral commodities in 2016, including manganese, niobium, tantalum and several of the other mineral commodities covered in the new volume.

This number has risen dramatically over the past 60 years. For example, in 1954 the United States was 100 percent import reliant for the supply of only eight nonfuel mineral commodities and by 1984 for 11 commodities.

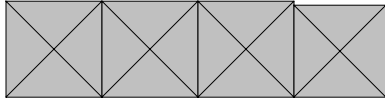
Since 1973, there has also been a significant increase in knowledge about geologic and environmental issues related to production and use. This report addresses the sustainable development of each mineral commodity in order that the current needs of the Nation can be met without limiting the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

For each mineral commodity, the authors address how the commodity is used, the location of identified resources and their distribution nationally and globally, the state of current geologic knowledge, potential for finding additional deposits, and geoenvironmental issues that may be related to the production and uses of these mineral commodities.

The volume, USGS Professional Paper 1802, is entitled “Critical Mineral Resources in the United States Economic and Environmental Geology and Prospects for Future Supply”. The USGS also regularly produces mineral information products, such as the yearly Mineral Commodity Summaries, the Minerals Yearbook, and mineral-resource assessments.

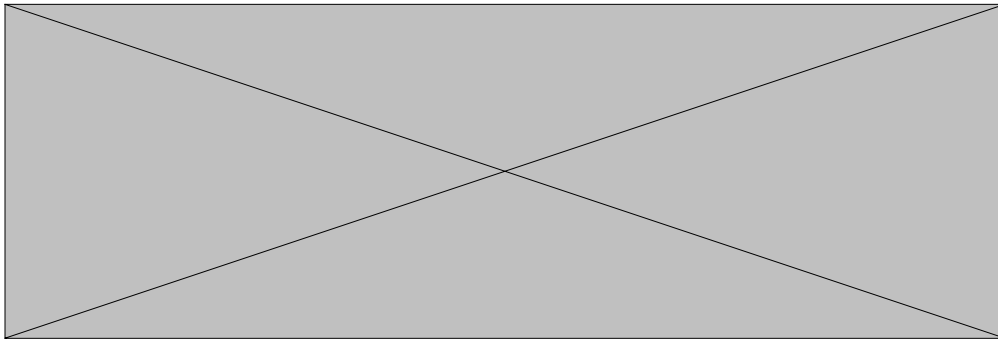
For more information on this book and mineral-resource science, please visit the USGS Mineral Resources Program at <https://minerals.usgs.gov>.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-21T07:59:59-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER TO BREAK NATION'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN MINERALS AND STRENGTHEN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY
Received: 2017-12-21T08:00:52-05:00
[2017 EO - Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals.pdf](#)

After a historic Tax Reform, let's continue making America independent from foreign dependencies... America First!



Date: December 20, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER TO BREAK NATION'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN MINERALS AND STRENGTHEN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

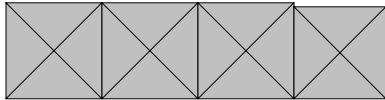
WASHINGTON Today, President Donald J. Trump signed an [Executive Order](#) to reverse the decades-long trend of increasing dependence on foreign imports of critical minerals that are essential to American prosperity and national security. Earlier this week, the Department of the Interior, led by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), [released a report](#) that examined 23 minerals that are needed for manufacturing everything from batteries and computer chips to equipment used by our military.

“This executive order will prioritize reducing the Nation’s vulnerability to disruptions in our supply of critical minerals safely and responsibly for the benefit of the American people,” **said President Trump**. “The United States must not remain reliant on foreign competitors like Russia and China for the critical minerals needed to keep our economy strong and our country safe.”

“As both a former military commander and geologist, I know the very real national security risk of relying on foreign nations for the military’s needs to keep our soldiers and our homeland safe,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “I applaud President Trump's action to fix this problem at all points in the supply chain.”

The comprehensive order aims to identify new sources of critical minerals, ensure miners and producers have access to the best data, and streamline the leasing and permitting process to expedite production, reprocessing and recycling of minerals at all levels of the supply chain.

###



EXECUTIVE ORDER

- - - - -

A FEDERAL STRATEGY TO ENSURE SECURE AND
RELIABLE SUPPLIES OF CRITICAL MINERALS

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Findings. The United States is heavily reliant on imports of certain mineral commodities that are vital to the Nation's security and economic prosperity. This dependency of the United States on foreign sources creates a strategic vulnerability for both its economy and military to adverse foreign government action, natural disaster, and other events that can disrupt supply of these key minerals. Despite the presence of significant deposits of some of these minerals across the United States, our miners and producers are currently limited by a lack of comprehensive, machine-readable data concerning topographical, geological, and geophysical surveys; permitting delays; and the potential for protracted litigation regarding permits that are issued. An increase in private-sector domestic exploration, production, recycling, and reprocessing of critical minerals, and support for efforts to identify more commonly available technological alternatives to these minerals, will reduce our dependence on imports, preserve our leadership in technological innovation, support job creation, improve our national security and balance of trade, and enhance the technological superiority and readiness of our Armed Forces, which are among the Nation's most significant consumers of critical minerals.

Sec. 2. Definition. (a) A "critical mineral" is a mineral identified by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to subsection (b) of this section to be (i) a non-fuel mineral or

mineral material essential to the economic and national security of the United States, (ii) the supply chain of which is vulnerable to disruption, and (iii) that serves an essential function in the manufacturing of a product, the absence of which would have significant consequences for our economy or our national security.

(b) The Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and in consultation with the heads of other relevant executive departments and agencies (agencies), shall publish a list of critical minerals in the *Federal Register* not later than 60 days after the date of this order, and disseminate such list to the appropriate agencies.

Sec. 3. Policy. It shall be the policy of the Federal Government to reduce the Nation's vulnerability to disruptions in the supply of critical minerals, which constitutes a strategic vulnerability for the security and prosperity of the United States. The United States will further this policy for the benefit of the American people and in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, by:

- (a) identifying new sources of critical minerals;
- (b) increasing activity at all levels of the supply chain, including exploration, mining, concentration, separation, alloying, recycling, and reprocessing critical minerals;
- (c) ensuring that our miners and producers have electronic access to the most advanced topographic, geologic, and geophysical data within U.S. territory to the extent permitted by law and subject to appropriate limitations for purposes of privacy and security, including appropriate limitations to protect critical infrastructure data such as those related to national security areas; and

(d) streamlining leasing and permitting processes to expedite exploration, production, processing, reprocessing, recycling, and domestic refining of critical minerals.

Sec. 4. Implementation. (a) Within 180 days of the date that the Secretary of the Interior publishes a list of critical minerals under section 2 of this order, the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Secretaries of Defense, the Interior, Agriculture, and Energy, and the United States Trade Representative, shall submit a report to the President through the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The report shall include:

- (i) a strategy to reduce the Nation's reliance on critical minerals;
- (ii) an assessment of progress toward developing critical minerals recycling and reprocessing technologies, and technological alternatives to critical minerals;
- (iii) options for accessing and developing critical minerals through investment and trade with our allies and partners;
- (iv) a plan to improve the topographic, geologic, and geophysical mapping of the United States and make the resulting data and metadata electronically accessible, to the extent permitted by law and subject to appropriate limitations for purposes of privacy and security, to support private sector mineral exploration of critical minerals; and

(v) recommendations to streamline permitting and review processes related to developing leases; enhancing access to critical mineral resources; and increasing discovery, production, and domestic refining of critical minerals.

(b) Agencies shall implement subsection (a) of this section in a manner consistent with, and when possible complementary to, implementation of Executive Order 13771 of January 30, 2017 (Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs), Executive Order 13783 of March 28, 2017 (Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth), Executive Order 13807 of August 15, 2017 (Establishing Discipline and Accountability in the Environmental Review and Permitting Process for Infrastructure Projects), and Executive Order 12866 of September 30, 1993 (Regulatory Planning and Review).

Sec. 5. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

- (i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof;
- (ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals; or
- (iii) existing treaties or international agreements relating to mineral production, imports, or exports.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its

departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Brent Gardner
Sent: 2017-12-21T08:06:59-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Automatic reply: PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER TO BREAK NATION'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN MINERALS AND STRENGTHEN OUR NATIONAL SECURITY
Received: 2017-12-21T08:07:03-05:00

I will be out of the office for the holidays and will have limited access to email. Responses may be delayed.

Merry Christmas,

Brent

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-22T13:08:24-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: MBTA Info
Received: 2017-12-22T13:09:02-05:00
1212 Migratory Bird Treaty Act One Pager.docx

Attached and below is the information about what we discussed...

The Solicitor's opinion on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act will be released at about 4pm today at <https://www.doi.gov/solicitor/opinions>

Please do not share or release this information until the Solicitor's opinion is live and online. Below is a rundown of the issue and a summary of what the opinion will say.

Please call me if you need any additional info or have any questions.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act Opinion

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) is a strict liability statute that criminalizes the killing or taking of a migratory bird. It was first enacted in 1918 in response to concerns about the over-hunting of migratory birds that fly back and forth between the United States and Canada from being hunted into extinction.

Since that time, the scope of the MBTA has been expanded to include treaties with Mexico, Japan, and the Soviet Union (now Russia), and to protect a litany of over 1000 bird species nearly every bird in North America. Beginning in the 1970s, the Department of Justice began prosecuting people and companies under the MBTA for the death of migratory birds as an unintended consequence of otherwise lawful activity, such as applying pesticides to crops or maintaining a wastewater pit.

This application of the MBTA has proven controversial. The strict liability nature of the law, along with the broad definition of "migratory bird," has led to concerns of vagueness, over breadth, and selective prosecution, with a particular emphasis on the oil and gas industry. In practice, the MBTA has also been used to justify extra statutory, "voluntary" guidelines that place additional regulatory burdens on select persons and industries.

Federal courts of appeals have split on the issue, with three generally denying that the MBTA reaches accidental conduct and two holding that it does. On its way out the door, in January 2017, the prior administration issued a Solicitor's Opinion concluding that the MBTA does criminalize accidental conduct. This broad interpretation makes every American a potential criminal, from those who merely drive cars or own buildings with windows, to those who operate windmills or oil facilities.

Our Solicitor's Opinion reverses this radical interpretation, providing greater regulatory certainty by returning to the MBTA to its proper limits: prohibiting actions that have as their purpose the taking or killing of migratory birds.

MBTA Key Points

- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is a nearly 100-year-old law that, under an 11th hour Obama Administration legal interpretation, turned nearly every American into a

potential criminal.

- Rather than prosecuting everyone who owns a cat, drives a car, or owns a home that kills a bird, government relies on prosecutorial discretion to pick winners and losers; preferred companies, industries, and activities get a free pass, while others get prosecuted or told to comply with burdensome requirements.
- Since prosecution is subject to the whims of the government, the burdens are always in danger of shifting with the political winds – today’s all-American industry may be tomorrow’s political pariah – casting a chill over the American economy.
- The new Solicitor’s Opinion reverses the “incidental take” opinion, which criminalized all actions that killed migratory birds, whether purposeful or not. The Opinion returns to the intent of the law - Interior’s action on the MBTA is a victory over the regulatory state.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

Migratory Bird Treaty Act One-Pager

Background

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) is a strict liability statute that criminalizes the killing or taking of a migratory bird. It was first enacted in 1918 in response to concerns about the over-hunting of migratory birds that fly back and forth between the United States and Canada from being hunted into extinction.

Since that time, the scope of the MBTA has been expanded to include treaties with Mexico, Japan, and the Soviet Union (now Russia), and to protect a litany of over 1000 bird species – nearly every bird in North America. Beginning in the 1970s, the Department of Justice began prosecuting people and companies under the MBTA for the death of migratory birds as an unintended consequence of otherwise lawful activity, such as applying pesticides to crops or maintaining a wastewater pit.

This application of the MBTA has proven controversial. The strict liability nature of the law, along with the broad definition of "migratory bird," has led to concerns of vagueness, over breadth, and selective prosecution, with a particular emphasis on the oil and gas industry. In practice, the MBTA has also been used to justify extra statutory, "voluntary" guidelines that place additional regulatory burdens on select persons and industries.

Federal courts of appeals have split on the issue, with three generally denying that the MBTA reaches accidental conduct and two holding that it does. On its way out the door, in January 2017, the prior administration issued a Solicitor's Opinion concluding that the MBTA does criminalize accidental conduct. This broad interpretation makes every American a potential criminal, from those who merely drive cars or own buildings with windows, to those who operate windmills or oil facilities.

Our Solicitor's Opinion reverses this radical interpretation, providing greater regulatory certainty by returning to the MBTA to its proper limits: prohibiting actions that have as their purpose the taking or killing of migratory birds.

MBTA Talking Points

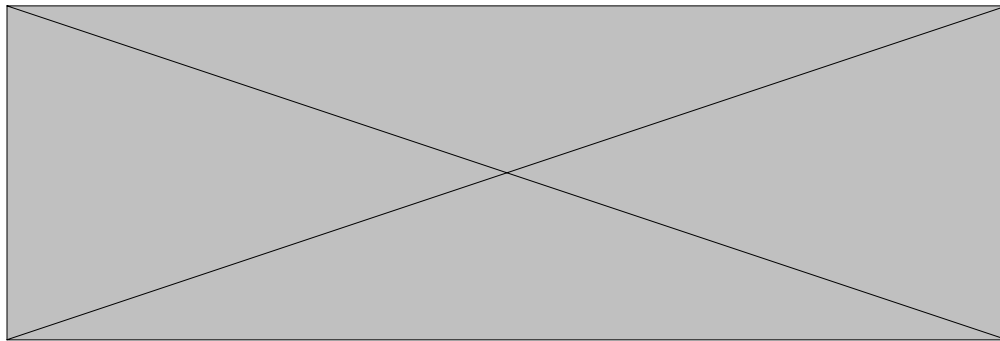
- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is a nearly 100-year-old law that, under an 11th hour Obama Administration legal interpretation, turned nearly every American into a potential criminal.
- Under the interpretation, government relied on prosecutorial discretion to pick winners and losers, administering justice unfairly. Preferred companies, industries, and activities got a free pass, while others were prosecuted or told to comply with burdensome requirements.
- Since prosecution is subject to the whims of the government, the burdens are always in danger of shifting with the political winds – today's all-American industry may be tomorrow's political pariah – casting a chill over the American economy.
- The new Solicitor's Opinion reverses the "incidental take" opinion, which criminalized all actions that killed migratory birds, whether purposeful or not. The Opinion returns to the intent of the law - Interior's action on the MBTA is a victory over the regulatory state.

To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Chrissy Harbin
Sent: 2017-12-22T13:09:43-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Automatic reply: MBTA Info
Received: 2017-12-22T13:09:53-05:00

Many thanks for reaching out. I am on vacation until January 2 and will have intermittent access to email. If your matter is an emergency that cannot wait, you may call or text me at 202 560 1691. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Chrissy

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-22T14:19:48-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Begin Process of Creating First Ever National Survey of Critical Minerals
Received: 2017-12-22T14:20:23-05:00

This is a follow up to the Critical Minerals Report released this week, the subsequent Executive Order, and the Secretary's actions from the report...



Date: December 21, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Begin Process of Creating First Ever National Survey of Critical Minerals

WASHINGTON, D.C. Today, following President Donald J. Trump's executive order to break America's dependence on foreign minerals, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed a secretarial order directing the initial steps to producing the first nationwide geological and topographical survey of the United States in modern history. The order also directs Interior bureaus to begin work on identifying immediate domestic sources for critical minerals.

"Right now the United States is almost completely reliant on foreign adversaries and competitors for many of the minerals that are deemed critical for our national and economic security. As both a former military commander and geologist, I know the risk this presents to our nation," **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. "The problem is we can't fix the problem if we don't know where the minerals are within our own borders. Other nations are far ahead of us with mapping of their mineral resources, leading to private sector investment overseas rather than right here at home. Drafting a complete topographical and geographic survey of the United States is exactly the kind of task the USGS was created to do."

"Our nation's growing dependence on foreign minerals is a distinct threat to our

economy, our national defense, and our international competitiveness," **Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)** said. "We need to improve all aspects of the supply chain from geologic surveying to permitting reform so that our nation produces more of the minerals that are fundamental to energy, health care, manufacturing, and other technologies. I welcome Secretary Zinke's determination to strengthen our nation's mineral security, and will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress to ensure we complement these efforts with legislative action."

"A country blessed with abundant mineral resources shouldn't be mineral-dependent and vulnerable," **said House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT)**. "This is an economic and security threat that's festered across administrations for too long. I look forward to continuing our work with the Trump administration to unlock our domestic mineral potential and reverse this disturbing trend."

The United States is heavily reliant on imports of certain mineral commodities that are vital to our national security and economic prosperity. This dependency on foreign sources creates a strategic vulnerability to U.S. industry and the military if supplies of these key minerals were disrupted by foreign government action, natural disasters, or other events.

Despite the presence of significant mineral deposits of some of these materials across the United States, our miners and producers are currently limited by a lack of comprehensive, machine-readable data concerning topographical, geological, and geophysical surveys; permitting delays; and the potential for extended litigation when permits are issued.

Western Caucus and House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Minerals Chairman Paul Gosar said, "Our reliance on foreign nations of questionable stability and demonstrated hostile intentions towards the United States for critical minerals constitutes a serious national security problem. This situation has come about even though the United States could readily procure the vast majority of the 23 minerals identified in the USGS Report domestically and sustainably, were we only to choose to greenlight development of our bounty of mineral resources. At a recent hearing of the Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee which I chair, I emphasized the extent to which arbitrary mineral withdrawals and a federal bureaucracy loathe to authorize mineral projects have brought us to this precarious juncture. But there is a way forward. I applaud President Trump and Secretary Zinke for taking action to advance American energy dominance and strengthen our national security."

The Secretarial Order directs the following action:

1. Direct the United States Geological Survey to:
 - Identify new sources of critical minerals;
 - Ensure that our miners and producers have electronic access to the most advanced topographic, geologic, and geophysical data, with appropriate limitations to protect critical infrastructure data such as those related to

national security areas

2. Direct the Bureau of Land Management and USGS to within 30 days provide a list of minerals defined as "critical minerals" to the Secretary of the Interior. Within 30 days after receiving the list of critical minerals from the BLM and USGS, the Secretary will coordinate with the Department of Defense and consult with the heads of other relevant agencies and departments to establish the final list.
3. Within 60 days of the completion of the critical minerals list, provide a plan to the Secretary to improve the topographic, geological, and geophysical mapping of the United States, and make the resulting data and metadata electronically accessible to support private sector mineral exploration of critical minerals.
4. Within 60 days of the signing of the Executive Order, each bureau head with land management responsibilities shall submit to the Secretary a list of recommendations to streamline permitting and review processes related to developing leases, accessing critical mineral resources, and increasing critical mineral discovery, production, and domestic refining.
5. Within 60 days of the signing of the Executive Order, each bureau head with land management responsibilities shall submit to the Secretary a list of recommended options for improving access and developing critical minerals.

"I applaud Secretary Zinke for initiating a review of the outdated, job-crushing policies that inhibit our ability to utilize our own mineral resources," **said Senator Dean Heller (R-NV)**. "Nevada is one of the most mineral rich locations on earth, and hard rock mining contributes to thousands of jobs in our state. In order to harness our nation's true mineral potential and end our reliance on foreign production, we need to streamline and update these policies, and that's why I authored legislation that would do just that. I thank Secretary Zinke for his leadership on this issue and his work to help allow Nevada and this country to enact a strategy to fully maximize our nation's mineral potential."

"I commend Secretary Zinke for his work to support our miners, streamline the permitting and review process, and enhance our national defense with this important order today," **said Congressman Tom Emmer (R-MN)**. "Minnesota, like so many states across this great nation, is fully prepared to step up and help unleash America's full mining potential which will improve national security, add jobs, bring economic prosperity and enhance the lives of every American. Additionally, our current environmental regulations ensure that we can secure critical minerals like copper and aluminum, while protecting our nation's vast, beautiful landscape. I am glad that this administration agrees sound economic, environmental, and security policy can and should coexist."

"I applaud Secretary Zinke's efforts to end our reliance on foreign countries for minerals that are critically important to our economy and national defense. American companies need access to these minerals to remain competitive globally and the Department of Defense needs access to these minerals to defend our country," **said Senator James E. Risch (R-ID)**.

"This report highlights a critical problem that has gotten far less attention than it deserves," **said Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT), Chairman of the Senate Republican High-Tech Task Force.** "Many of our most important—and common—electronic devices require rare-earth metals such as yttrium, lanthanum, and gadolinium to function properly. Television sets, computer processors, and iPhones all incorporate these scarce elements, and the fact that the United States relies so heavily on other countries for so many of them makes our supply chain exceedingly vulnerable. We need a concerted effort here at home to boost recycling and, as appropriate, production of rare-earth minerals so that we have better control over crucial components of our supply chain."

"Secretary Zinke has taken a critical step by highlighting how our national security is tied to our need to develop rare earth resources. This is an important issue, and one our office has been leading on in Congress. West Virginia University has been leading in this effort by conducting research on recovering rare earth elements from coal mine drainage," **said Congressman David B. McKinley (R-WV).** "As they continue to refine this process, it has the potential to have a significant impact on West Virginia's economy, and help reduce environmental impacts. I applaud Secretary Zinke's leadership and look forward to working with him on this issue."

To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Mac Zimmerman
Sent: 2017-12-22T14:21:13-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Automatic reply: Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Begin Process of Creating First Ever National Survey of Critical Minerals
Received: 2017-12-22T14:21:21-05:00

Thank you for your email.

I am out of the office on vacation until January 2. I will not be checking my email during this period.

If this is an emergency that cannot wait, you can contact me on my personal mobile at

(b) (6)

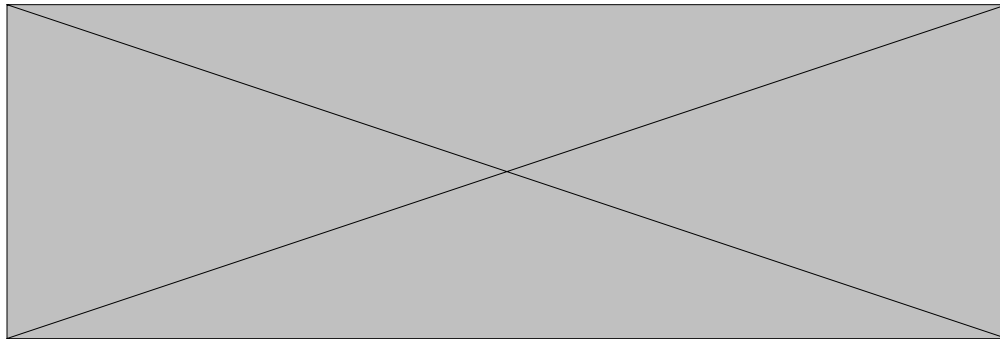
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mac

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-22T14:25:03-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: New Interior Department Survey Shows HUGE Increase in Recoverable Energy Resources in Federal, State and Native Lands and Waters in Alaska
Received: 2017-12-22T14:25:44-05:00

The Department of the Interior Energy is making American energy great again!

Merry Christmas everyone!!



Date: December 22, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

New Interior Department Survey Shows HUGE Increase in Recoverable Energy Resources in Federal, State and Native Lands and Waters in Alaska

17.6 Billion Barrels of Oil, 50 Trillion Cubic Feet of Gas

Secretary Zinke praises scientists at BOEM and USGS who partnered to produce the updated survey of the Western Beaufort Sea Planning Area and NPR-A

WASHINGTON, D.C. Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke released an [updated resource assessment](#) for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A), the Western Beaufort Sea, adjacent State and Native lands, and State waters, which estimates the mean undiscovered, technically recoverable resources both on and offshore to include 17.6 billion barrels of oil and more than 50 trillion cubic feet of gas.

"Earlier this year I visited the North Slope to talk with Alaska Natives and elected officials about what responsible energy development means for the communities and the state. The response

was overwhelmingly positive and the message was clear: the path to American Energy Dominance starts in Alaska," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Today's updated assessment is a big step toward that goal. Thanks to the incredible work of scientists at the USGS and BOEM, we know what's available and what our potential is. That's important because with the scientific knowledge, industry partners are more willing to explore the area. New discoveries have changed our geologic knowledge of the area - and these assessments show that the North Slope will remain an important energy hub for decades to come in order to meet the energy needs of our nation."

The assessment was conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), which are all bureaus under the management of the Department. USGS led onshore efforts, and BOEM led offshore efforts with data contributed by BLM. Additional information was provided by state and industry partners.

Onshore, USGS estimates a mean of 8.7 billion barrels of oil and 25 trillion cubic feet of gas. This is a significant increase from the 2010 resource assessment, which estimated a mean of 1.5 billion barrels of oil.

Offshore, BOEM's revised estimates of mean undiscovered technically recoverable resources in the Beaufort Sea Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area are 8.9 billion barrels of oil and 27.7 trillion cubic feet of gas. BOEM's updated assessment resulted in a net increase of nearly 700 million barrels of oil equivalent over BOEM's 2016 Beaufort Sea Planning Area assessment.

"I am always mindful of the need to protect the environment and our subsistence way of life and I appreciate the Department of Interior's commitment to responsible development. This resource assessment tells us something our North Slope Inupiat people already know--Alaska has incredible potential," **said Alaska Native officials North Slope Borough Mayor and whaling captain, Harry K. Brower Jr.** "The Borough and the majority of our residents have long supported the careful and responsible development of oil and gas resources within our region that protects the balance between economic development and our subsistence way of life."

"Just as we have always known, this assessment shows that the NPR-A has significant potential and will remain a big part of our energy future," **Chairman Lisa Murkowski said**. "I thank Secretary Zinke for traveling to this area with me earlier this year, for directing USGS to update its resource assessment, and for working with Alaskans on a better plan for responsible development."

"The good news for Alaska and America's energy dominance continues," **said Senator Dan Sullivan**. "Alaska's vast resources offer a superior opportunity for us to provide jobs, energy, and security to our nation and our allies. This updated assessment by the USGS and BOEM shows that the resources are there and the time is now to invest in our vast Arctic energy potential."

"I am pleased with the Secretary's announcement," **said Alaska Congressman Don Young**. "I have consistently fought to defend and grow both the Alaskan and American economy. Finding more recoverable oil in the NPR-A will be a benefit to everyone in our nation. I stand with the

majority of Alaskans in asking Secretary Zinke and the President to continue efforts to expand our energy independence through exploration and responsible development of the NPR-A and Coastal Plain."

"A frontier to many, Alaska's North Slope is our home; it is rich with potential," **said Richard Glenn, ASRC Executive Vice President of Lands and Natural Resources.** "Any good land use and resource exploration decisions require the best available subsurface data and interpretation. I commend our colleagues on the USGS team for taking up this effort." ASRC is an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) regional corporation. ASRC owns more than five million acres of lands on the North Slope. Shareholder owners of ASRC are the predominant majority of the residents of the eight villages of the North Slope.

"BOEM is pleased to participate in this partnership with USGS to use shared science and new technology to produce these increased estimates of oil and gas potential in northern Alaska," **said Walter Cruickshank, acting director of BOEM.**

"This assessment is a testament to the expertise of our geologists and energy resource scientists," **said Bill Werkheiser, acting director of the USGS.** "These results also show the value of our partnerships, particularly with our sister agencies, the State of Alaska, and industry."

The USGS, BLM and BOEM conducted these assessments in compliance with Secretarial Order 3352 and as part of a program directed at estimating the undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources of priority petroleum basins in the United States. The next USGS assessments to be announced in Alaska are of the Alaska 1002 Area and the area west of the NPR-A.

This assessment is for undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources. Undiscovered resources are those that are estimated to exist based on geologic knowledge and theory, while technically recoverable resources are those that can be produced using currently available technology and industry practices.

The estimated undiscovered oil resources are significantly higher than previous estimates, mainly because two geologic formations in the NPR-A host recent oil discoveries that are larger than anticipated. The current USGS estimate is more than six times the previous USGS assessments of the Central North Slope (2005) and NPR-A (2010).

Moreover, the USGS assessment team made use of three-dimensional seismic reflection data in northeastern NPR-A and adjacent State lands and waters, provided by partners like the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, to estimate the number and size of seismic amplitude anomalies, which are considered viable proxies for undrilled prospects.

To find out more about USGS energy assessments and other energy research, please visit the [USGS Energy Resources Program website](#), sign up for our Newsletter, and follow us on [Twitter](#).

More information about BOEM resource evaluation on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) is available on the [BOEM website](#).

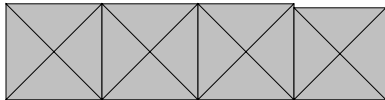
Industry Background

Industry discoveries announced during 2015-2017 indicate that the potential for larger oil accumulations in both formations is greater than previously thought. The Pikka and Horseshoe oil discoveries near the Colville River delta just outside NPR-A were announced in 2015 and 2017. Industry announcements suggest that the two discoveries 21 miles apart likely are in the same oil pool, which may hold more than 1 billion barrels of recoverable oil.

Industry announced the discovery of the Willow oil pool in the Nanushuk Formation in NPR-A in 2017 with estimated resources of more than 300 million barrels of oil. Multiple wells have been announced to be drilled during the 2017-2018 winter drilling season at both Pikka-Horseshoe and Willow to further delineate these discoveries.

Industry announced an oil discovery in the deeper Torok Formation at Smith Bay, less than one mile offshore from NPR-A, in 2016 to hold more than 1 billion barrels of oil. Another oil discovery in the Torok Formation was announced in 2015 at the Cassin prospect in NPR-A, not far from the Willow discovery. No plans for drilling have yet been announced at either Smith Bay or Cassin.

###



.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2017-12-28T17:58:35-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Promises Made, Promises Kept: Interior Releases Comprehensive List of Accomplishments under President Trump & Secretary Zinke
Received: 2017-12-28T17:59:11-05:00
[2017 department of the interior accomplishments.pdf](#)

Esteemed MAGA Colleagues,

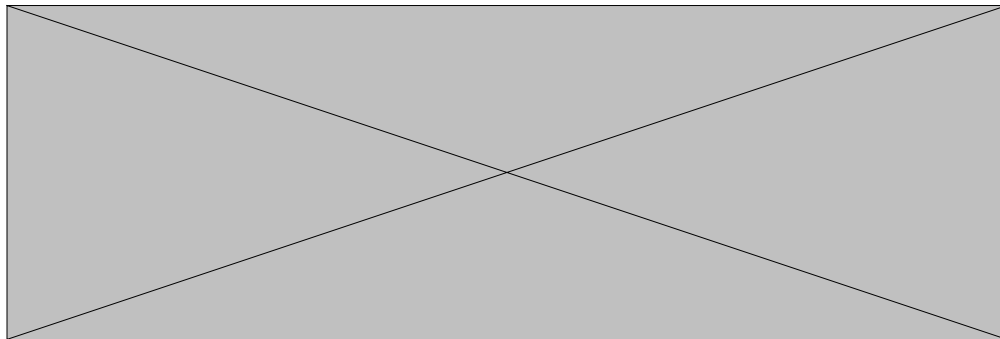
If there was ever a time to brag about the Trump Administration and the work that DOI is specifically doing, it's now!

We couldn't have accomplished this much without you, so THANK YOU for all your hard work in 2017!

For anyone who thinks we aren't winning, the proof is in the pudding, and our pudding is DELICIOUS!

Cheers to 2017, yet the upcoming year is going to be even YUGER!

MAGA,
Jason Funes



Date: December 28, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Promises Made, Promises Kept: Interior Releases Comprehensive List of Accomplishments under President Trump & Secretary Zinke

WASHINGTON Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior released a [list of accomplishments](#) that the Department has achieved under the leadership of President Donald J. Trump and Secretary Ryan Zinke. The accomplishments represent the unique balance of development, conservation, and preservation that the Department is charged with overseeing,

including leading in American Energy Dominance, restoring public access to public lands, and providing regulatory relief for hard working American citizens.

“The President promised the American people that their voices would be heard and that we would prioritize American interests, and I'm proud to say that this year the Department of the Interior has made good on those promises,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Across the Department we are striking the right balance to protect our greatest treasures and also generate the revenue and energy our country needs. We ended the war on coal, and we restored millions of acres of public land for traditional multiple use. We expanded access for recreation, hunting and fishing on public lands, and also started looking at new ways to rebuild our National Parks. This is just the tip of the iceberg. Next year will be an exciting year for the Department and the American people.”

Throughout Secretary Zinke’s Senate confirmation process, he made many promises to the American tax payer, and the [list of accomplishments](#) shows how the Department is keeping the promises that were made. Additionally, Zinke fulfilled confirmation promises to Senators to visit DOI holdings in their home states, including [Florida](#), [New Mexico](#), [Utah](#), [Alaska](#), [Idaho](#), [Louisiana](#), [Tennessee](#), [Maine](#), [Colorado](#), [Arizona](#), and [Texas](#).

Below is a summary of major accomplishments according to Secretary Zinke's Top Ten Priorities at the Department:

1. Create a conservation stewardship legacy, second only to Teddy Roosevelt

Under Secretary Zinke's leadership, the Department opened public access to the Sabinoso Wilderness which contains some of the most pristine sportsmen opportunities in the country, expanded hunting and fishing access on 10 National Wildlife Refuges, and successfully defended a mineral withdrawal near the Grand Canyon and supports a withdrawal north of Yellowstone.

2. Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources

Under Secretary Zinke's leadership, the Department held the second largest offshore wind lease sale, ended the Obama-era ban on coal mining on federal lands, and increased energy revenues to states and Tribes by more than a billion dollars.

3. Restore trust & be a good neighbor

At Secretary Zinke's recommendation, the President restored traditional multiple-use public access to over a million acres of land in Utah while creating five distinct monument units at Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments. Under Zinke's leadership, the Department also opened up the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge for emergency cattle grazing after a wildfire, and reopened U.S. Virgin Islands National Park ahead of the busy Christmas tourism season, helping the Islands' economic recovery.

4. Ensure Tribal sovereignty means something

President Trump nominated the first Alaska Native woman to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs and issued the first-ever Presidential Emergency Declaration for a Tribe.

Secretary Zinke signed the Pechanga water rights settlement, restored the rights of Alaska Natives to sell handicrafts, and asked Congress to formally designate Tribal co-management of Shash-Jaa area of Bears Ears National Monument.

5. Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests

Under Secretary Zinke's leadership, the Department increased energy revenues to states by more than a billion dollars over the previous year.

6. Protect our people and the border

President Trump and Secretary Zinke secured full funding authorization of the compact with Palau in order to strengthen the United States strategic defense in the Pacific. Hundreds of DOI law enforcement officers deployed to evacuate, prepare and respond to hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

7. Strike a regulatory balance

Under Secretary Zinke's leadership, the Department reduced the semi-annual regulatory agenda by more than 50-percent, initiated 21 deregulatory actions, saving the economy \$3.8 billion over time.

8. Modernize our infrastructure

Secretary Zinke announced repairs to the historic Arlington Memorial Bridge, which carries 68,000 vehicles a day, will be completed under budget and ahead of schedule. The Secretary approved important infrastructure projects like the Boardman/Hemingway Transmission Line and the Mountain Valley Pipeline while also approving more than \$80 million for parks and recreation grants.

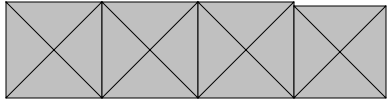
9. Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years

The Secretary is crafting a plan to reorganize the Department of the Interior in a way that better manages our federal lands and pushes more assets to the field. The philosophy has earned bipartisan support in Congress and among governors.

10. Achieving our goals, leading our team forward

Partnership for Public Service announced in its "The Best Places to Work" survey the Department of the Interior (DOI) has improved from 11th place to 9th place among all the large agencies. Secretary Zinke has made improving the work experience a priority while at the Department, and the numbers from the report show a significant jump towards reaching that goal. Additionally, the Secretary announced the Department would be dog friendly in an effort to boost morale and attract top candidates.

###



2017 DOI Accomplishments

Secretary Zinke's Top Ten Priorities –

- **Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt**
- **Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources**
- **Restore trust and be a good neighbor**
- **Ensuring sovereignty means something.**
- **Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests**
- **Protect our people and the border.**
- **Strike a regulatory balance.**
- **Modernize our infrastructure.**
- **Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years.**
- **Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.**

1. Create a conservation stewardship legacy, second only to Teddy Roosevelt

○ Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Review Obama-Era Sage-Grouse Plans, Improves Conservation and Strengthens Communication Between States and Federal Government (BLM)

○ Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Expand Access for Sportsmen on Public and Private Lands-Prioritize Hunter Engagement, Improve Federal-State Conservation Efforts (USFWS)

○ Yellowstone Grizzly Bear's Strong Recovery Leads to Delisting (USFWS)

- Department of the Interior Hosts the First Sportsman's Access Summit (USFWS, BLM & NPS)
- Interior Overturns Ban on Affordable Lead Ammo and Fishing Tackle (USFWS)
- Secretary Zinke Announces \$1.1 Billion in Funding to State Wildlife Agencies (USFWS)
- Secretary Zinke Establishes "Made in America" Recreation Advisory Committee to Leverage Public Private Partnerships and Investment on Public Lands (NPS, USFWS & BLM)
- Secretary Zinke Announces 10 Wildlife Refuges Will Open or Expand Public Access for Hunting and Fishing (USFWS)
- Interior Strengthens Commitment to Hunting and Fishing by Declaring October as National Hunting and Fishing Month (USFWS)
- Secretary Zinke Hosts First-Ever Veterans Roundtable to Expand Access to Public Lands for Service Members (BLM, NPS & USFWS)
- 16,000 Acres in the Sabinoso Wilderness Opened Up to the Public for the First Time Ever. (BLM)
- Secretary Announces the Creation of the International Wildlife Conservation Council (USFWS)

2. Sustainably develop our energy & natural resources

- Secretary Zinke Calls for Enhanced Exploration of Energy Opportunities with the Development of the Outer Continental Shelf (BSEE & BOEM)

- Interior Held Second Largest Offshore Wind Sale Near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina (BOEM)

- Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Jumpstart Alaskan Energy Production NPR-A, 1002 and Offshore (BLM, BOEM, & USGS)

- Secretary Zinke Signs Comprehensive Energy Order to End the Obama Ban on Coal Mining on Federal Lands and Review Costly Mitigation Policies (DOI)

- Secretary Zinke Announces Largest Oil and Gas Lease Sale Ever in United States (BOEM & BSEE)

- Secretary Zinke Issues Lease for 56 Million Tons of Coal in Central Utah (BLM)

- Secretarial Order Establishes Executive Committee for Expedited Permitting (BLM, BOEM, BSEE & NPS)

- New Interior Department Survey Shows Huge Increase in Recoverable Energy Resources in Alaska (BOEM, USGS & BLM)

3. Restore trust & be a good neighbor

○ President Trump and Secretary Zinke Announce Proclamations to Adjust Boundaries of National Monuments (BLM)

○ Zinke Applauded for Helping to Release Funds Long Overdue for Swain County, North Carolina (DOI)

○ Zinke Submits Recommendations to President on National Monuments: Restores Multiple-Use and Maintains all Public Lands (DOI)

○ Secretary Zinke Travels to Florida to Assess Hurricane Damage to National Parks and Fast Track Recovery Efforts (NPS)

○ Interior Authorizes Full Decision Making Power to Bikini Islands Over Annual Budget (OIA)

○ Secretary Opens the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge for Emergency Grazing After Wildfire (USFWS)

○ Ahead of Two Category Five Hurricanes, Zinke Expedited Release of Funding for the U.S. Virgin Islands (OIA & NPS)

○ National Park Service Completes the Reopening of the Virgin Islands National Park After Hurricane Irma Devastates the Island (NPS)

4. Ensure Tribal sovereignty means something

- Tara Mac Lean Sweeney Becomes First-Ever Female Alaska Native Nominated to Serve as Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs (BIA)

- Water Rights Settlement Signed with Pechanga Band of Luiseño Mission Indians (BIA)

- Secretary Zinke Established a Royalty Policy Committee to Improve Energy Leases on Federal Land and Waters, Giving Tribes a seat at the Table (ONRR)

- Alaskan Natives Have Rights Restored to Sell Handicrafts (BIA)

5. Increase revenues to support DOI and national interests

- Energy Disbursements Grow by \$1 Billion Over Previous Year (ONNR)

- BLM Issues Timber Payments of Nearly \$20 Million to Rural Oregon Counties (BLM)

- Utah Coal Lease Approved for \$22 Million (BLM)

- Gulf of Mexico Lease Generates \$275 Million (BSEE)

- Onshore Oil and Gas Lease Sales Net \$317 Million in Revenue (BLM & BSEE)

6. Protect our people and the border

- Secretary Takes Aggressive Action to Prevent Wildland Fires (BLM, OWF, NPS, USFWS & BIA)
- Seminole Tribe Receives Presidential Emergency Declaration (BIA)
- Secretary Zinke and Perdue Host Inter-Agency Wildfire Listening Session with Federal, State and Local Stakeholders (DOI)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Coordinates with Indian Health Service to Provide Naloxone Training to BIA Officers to Reverse Effects of Opioid Overdose (BIA)
- Quick Response by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Staff Assists the Power-Starved Communities of Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands (USFWS)
- Trump and Zinke's Budget Plan Approved, Authorizes Full Funding of Palau Compact Agreement, Strengthening U.S. Strategic Defense in the Pacific (OIA)

7. Strike a regulatory balance

- Secretary Zinke Signs Order to Review Costly and Burdensome Red Tape in Order to Advance American Energy (DOI)
- Department of Interior Outlines Costly and Burdensome Regulations to Repeal or Rewrite to Achieve American Energy Dominance (DOI)

- Interior Streamlines Permitting Process Under the National Environmental Policy Act (DOI)
- Environmental Impact Statements Limited to 150 Pages (DOI)
- Interior Reduces the Semi-Annual Regulatory Agenda by More than 50% (DOI)

8. Modernize our infrastructure

- Interior Approves Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line Project that Creates Jobs and Improves Energy Infrastructure (BLM)
- Secretary Zinke Announces the Arlington Memorial Bridge Project is Under Budget and Ahead of Schedule (NPS)
- Secretary Zinke Announces Nearly \$32 Million in Boating Infrastructure, Recreation and Tourism Grants (DOI, USFWS, NPS & BoR)
- Secretary Announces more than \$50 Million for National Parks Infrastructure (NPS)

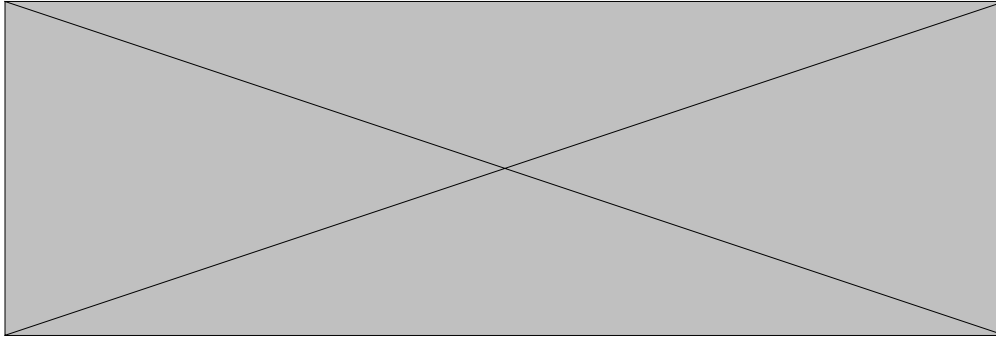
9. Reorganize DOI for the next 100 years

- The Secretary is Crafting a Plan to Reorganize the Department of the Interior (DOI)

10. Achieving our goals, leading our team forward

- Secretary Zinke Outlines Plan to Combat Workplace Harassment (DOI)
- In an Effort to Boost Employee Morale and be More Competitive in Attracting New Employees, the Department of the Interior Announces First Ever, “Doggy Days” (DOI)
- Interior Moves Up into the Top Ten of “Best Places to Work” (DOI)

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-04T14:13:49-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: SECRETARY ZINKE ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR UNLEASHING AMERICA'S OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS POTENTIAL
Received: 2018-01-04T14:14:23-05:00



Date: January 4, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

SECRETARY ZINKE ANNOUNCES PLAN FOR UNLEASHING AMERICA'S OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS POTENTIAL

Draft Proposed Program considers nearly the entire U.S. Outer Continental Shelf for potential oil and gas lease sales

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced the next step for responsibly developing the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program) for 2019-2024, which proposes to make over 90 percent of the total OCS acreage and more than 98 percent of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources in federal offshore areas available to consider for future exploration and development. By comparison, the current program puts 94 percent of the OCS off limits. In addition, the program proposes the largest number of lease sales in U.S. history.

“Responsibly developing our energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf in a safe and well-regulated way is important to our economy and energy security, and it provides billions of dollars to fund the conservation of our coastlines, public lands and parks,” **said Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke.** “Today's announcement lays out the options that are on the table and starts a lengthy and robust public comment period. Just like with mining, not all areas are appropriate for offshore drilling, and we will take that into consideration in the coming weeks. The important thing is we strike the right balance to protect our coasts and people while still powering America and achieving American Energy Dominance”

Earlier this year, 155 Members of both the [U.S. House](#) and [U.S. Senate](#) sent letters to Secretary Zinke in support of a new 5-year plan that recognizes America's potential for energy dominance.

The Draft Proposed Program (DPP) includes 47 potential lease sales in 25 of the 26 planning

areas 19 sales off the coast of Alaska, 7 in the Pacific Region, 12 in the Gulf of Mexico, and 9 in the Atlantic Region. This is the largest number of lease sales ever proposed for the National OCS Program's 5-year lease schedule.

“By proposing to open up nearly the entire OCS for potential oil and gas exploration, the United States can advance the goal of moving from aspiring for energy independence to attaining energy dominance,” **said Vincent DeVito, Counselor for Energy Policy at Interior**. “This decision could bring unprecedented access to America’s extensive offshore oil and gas resources and allows us to better compete with other oil-rich nations.”

Release of the DPP is an early step in a multi-year process to develop a final National OCS Program for 2019-2024. Today's draft proposal was informed by approximately 816,000 comments from a wide variety of stakeholders, including state governments, federal agencies, public interest groups, industry, and the public. Before the program is finalized, the public will have additional opportunities to provide input. The 2017-2022 Five Year Program will continue to be implemented until the new National OCS Program is approved.

“This plan is an early signal to the global marketplace that the United States intends to remain a global leader in responsible offshore energy development and produce affordable American energy for many decades to come,” **said Katharine MacGregor, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management**. “This proposed plan shows our commitment to a vibrant offshore energy economy that supports the thousands of men and women working in the offshore energy industry, from supply vessels to rig crews.”

Inclusion of an area in the DPP is not a final indication that it will be included in the approved Program or offered in a lease sale, because many decision points still remain. By proposing to open these areas for consideration, the Secretary ensures that he will receive public input and analysis on all of the available OCS to better inform future decisions on the National OCS Program. Prior to any individual lease sale in the future, BOEM will continue to incorporate new scientific information and stakeholder feedback in its reviews to further refine the geographic scope of the lease areas.

“American energy production can be competitive while remaining safe and environmentally sound,” **said Acting BOEM Director Walter Cruickshank**. “Public input is a crucial part of this process, and we hope to hear from industry groups, elected officials, other government agencies, concerned citizens and others as we move forward with developing the 2019-2024 National OCS Program.”

The Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act requires the Secretary of the Interior, through BOEM, to prepare and maintain a schedule of proposed oil and gas lease sales in federal waters, indicating the size, timing, and location of leasing activity that would best meet national energy needs for the five-year period following Program approval. In developing the [National OCS Program](#), the Secretary is required to achieve an appropriate balance among the potential for environmental impacts, for discovery of oil and gas, and for adverse effects on the coastal zone.

BOEM currently manages about 2,900 active OCS leases, covering almost 15.3 million acres the vast majority in the Gulf of Mexico. In fiscal year 2016, oil and gas leases on the OCS

accounted for approximately 18 percent of domestic oil production and 4 percent of domestic natural gas production. This production generates billions of dollars in revenue for state and local governments and the U.S. taxpayer, while supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Gulf of Mexico:

The DPP includes 12 sales in the Gulf of Mexico, one of the most productive basins in the world and where oil and gas infrastructure is well established. The draft proposal continues the current approach to lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico by proposing 10 biannual lease sales in those areas of the Western, Central, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico that are not subject to Congressional moratorium or otherwise unavailable, and two sales in the portions of the Eastern and Central Gulf of Mexico after the expiration of the Congressional moratorium in 2022. This is the first time the majority of the Eastern GOM Planning Area would be available for leasing since 1988.

Alaska:

The DPP proposes 19 lease sales in the Alaska Region (3 in the Chukchi Sea, 3 in the Beaufort Sea, 2 in Cook Inlet, and 1 sale each in 11 other program areas in Alaska). These 11 program areas consist of the Gulf of Alaska, Kodiak, Shumagin, Aleutian Arc, St. George Basin, Bowers Basin, Aleutian Basin, Navarin Basin, St. Matthew-Hall, Norton Basin, and Hope Basin. No sales are proposed in the North Aleutian Basin Planning Area that has been under Presidential withdrawal since December 2014.

Pacific:

The DPP proposes 7 lease sales in the Pacific Region (2 each for Northern California, Central California, and Southern California, and 1 for Washington/Oregon). There have been no sales in the Pacific Region since 1984. Currently there are 43 leases in producing status in the Southern California Planning Area.

Atlantic:

The DPP proposes 9 lease sales in the Atlantic Region (3 sales each for the Mid- and South Atlantic, 2 for the North Atlantic, and 1 for the Straits of Florida). There have been no sales in the Atlantic since 1983 and there are no existing leases.

NEXT STEPS

In conjunction with the announcement of the DPP, the Department is also publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Public meetings will be held around the country starting on January 16, 2018, to receive comments on the DPP and to inform the Draft Programmatic EIS. Specific dates, times, and venues will be posted on BOEM's website at <https://www.boem.gov/National-Program/>.

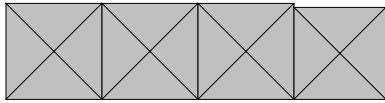
Using the information received from these public meetings, BOEM will prepare a Proposed Program (PP), which will be published for public comment, to be followed by a Proposed Final

Program (PFP). In addition, the Department will prepare a Draft Programmatic EIS to be published concurrently with the PP, and a Final EIS with the PFP.

The DPP and the NOI will be available for public comment for 60 days following the publication of the documents in the Federal Register.

For more information about the National OCS Program, including maps, please visit: <http://www.boem.gov/National-Program/>

###

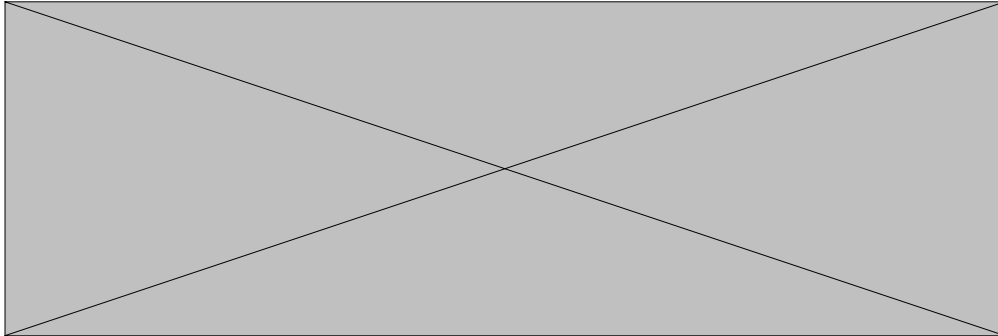


To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]; Wynn, Todd[todd_wynn@ios.doi.gov]
From: Chrissy Harbin
Sent: 2018-01-08T15:54:26-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Call-in details for 3:30 PM tomorrow
Received: 2018-01-08T15:54:50-05:00

Let's both use the Host code.

Call-In	(b)(5)
Host Code	(b)(5)
Participant Code	(b)(5)

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-09T10:03:05-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Applauds President Trump's Commitment to Expand Rural Broadband
Received: 2018-01-09T10:03:39-05:00



Date: January 8, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Applauds President Trump's Commitment to Expand Rural Broadband

Interior to allow private companies to co-locate broadband infrastructure on public lands

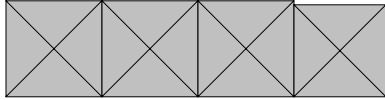
WASHINGTON Today, President Donald J. Trump signed an executive order and a presidential memorandum which together will increase broadband availability for rural Americans. The memo to Secretary Zinke directs the Department of the Interior to develop a plan to allow private high-speed broadband companies to co-locate their equipment on Interior infrastructure. With Interior owning as much as 83 percent of the land in some western states, this move is expected to make it more accessible and affordable for companies to provide broadband to rural Americans.

"The Department of the Interior owns and manages hundreds of millions of acres of land across the rural west. From grazing lands in Nevada and Wyoming to reservation lands in Arizona or Oklahoma, we cover a lot of ground and it requires a lot of infrastructure. The President and I think private companies should be able to use that infrastructure if it's for the public good," **said Secretary Zinke.** "President Trump's order will help bridge the digital divide for the millions of Americans who live in rural areas. Whether it's a student taking a class via distance learning, a small clinic practicing telemedicine, or a mom-and-pop garage small business using e-commerce platforms, expanding high-speed broadband access will have incredible benefits for rural America."

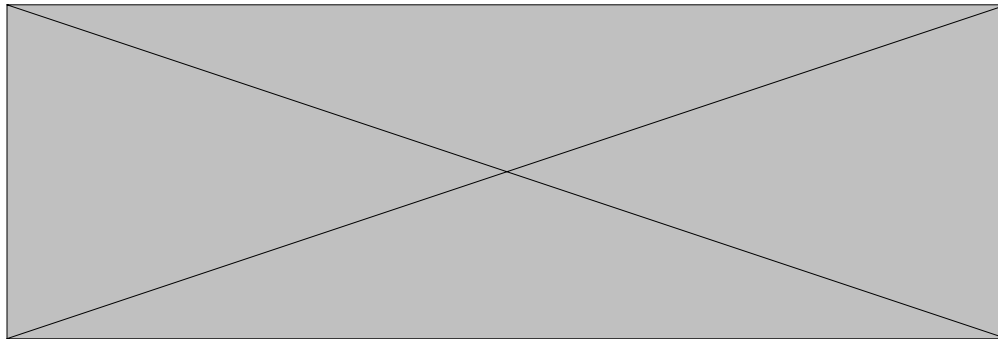
According to the FCC, nearly 23 million Americans in rural parts of the country currently lack access to broadband. In modern society, this cuts them off from many services and economic opportunities. As highlighted in the President's Rural Prosperity Report, the rural broadband

industry supported nearly 70,000 jobs and over \$100 billion in commerce. Through the Department of the Interior's work on the Rural Prosperity Task Force and by direction from the President, we are dedicated to ensuring that the U.S. Government is creating an environment that helps, not hinders, the deployment of broadband services to rural Americans.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-09T13:48:43-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Creates New Council for Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation
Received: 2018-01-09T13:49:16-05:00



Date: January 9, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Creates New Council for Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation

Calls for Nominations

WASHINGTON Continuing his unyielding support for hunting, fishing, and the American conservation ethic, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced the creation of the Hunting and Shooting Sports Conservation Council. The Council is intended to provide the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture with advice regarding the establishment and implementation of existing and proposed policies and authorities with regard to wildlife and habitat conservation. The Council will examine ways to benefit wildlife resources; encourage partnership among the public, the sporting conservation organizations, state, tribal, territorial, and federal government; and benefit recreational hunting and recreational shooting sports.

“Hunters and anglers are the backbone of wildlife and habitat conservation in America. Through the purchase of duck stamps, bows, ammo, firearms, and more, sportsmen and women contribute billions of dollars to conservation. From my perspective, the more sportsmen we have in the woods and waters, the better our wildlife and habitat will be,” **Secretary Zinke said.** “The Council will be made up of experts that share their knowledge, experience, and recommendations on a number of policy proposals put before them, as well as helping the Departments come up with innovative ideas to improve the health of wildlife and their habitat and increase sportsmen access on public and private lands.”

The Council is strictly advisory and the duties will consist of providing recommendations for implementation of Executive Order No. 13443 (E.O.): Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation, Secretarial Order No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, and Secretarial Order No. 3356 (S.O.): Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and

Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes, and Territories.

Recommendations from the Council to the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture shall include, but not be limited to:

- Assessing and quantifying implementation of the Executive Order and Secretarial Orders across relevant departments, agencies, offices, and recommendations to enhance and expand their implementation as identified;

Policies and programs that:

- Conserve and restore wetlands, agricultural lands, grasslands, forests, and range land habitats;
- Promote opportunities and expand access to hunting and shooting sports on public and private lands;
- Encourages hunting and shooting safety by developing ranges on public lands;
- Recruit and retain new shooters and hunters;
- Increase public awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation and the social and economic benefits of hunting and shooting;
- Encourage coordination among the public, hunting and shooting sports community, wildlife conservation groups, state, tribal, territorial, and federal government.

Since his first day in office, Secretary Zinke:

- Reversed an order that would have banned lead ammo and tackle on National Wildlife Refuge lands.
- Expanded hunting and fishing opportunities at 10 national wildlife refuges
- Signed a wide-ranging order to expand sportsmen access on public and private land, improve collaboration between the federal, state and Tribal wildlife management authorities, and create a "one-stop" website for all hunting and fishing opportunities on public lands
- Directed bureaus to open hunting and fishing on all national monument lands where legally allowed
- Finalized a land acquisition to make the Sabinoso Wilderness Area accessible to hunters for the first time ever

Individuals may submit comments and/or nominations by any of the following methods:

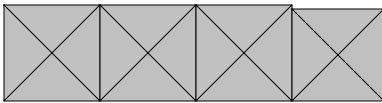
- Mail or hand-carry nominations to Joshua Winchell, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuge System, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803; or
- Email nominations to: joshua_winchell@fws.gov

The Council will meet approximately twice a year, and at such other times as designated by the Designated Federal Officer. The Council will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is

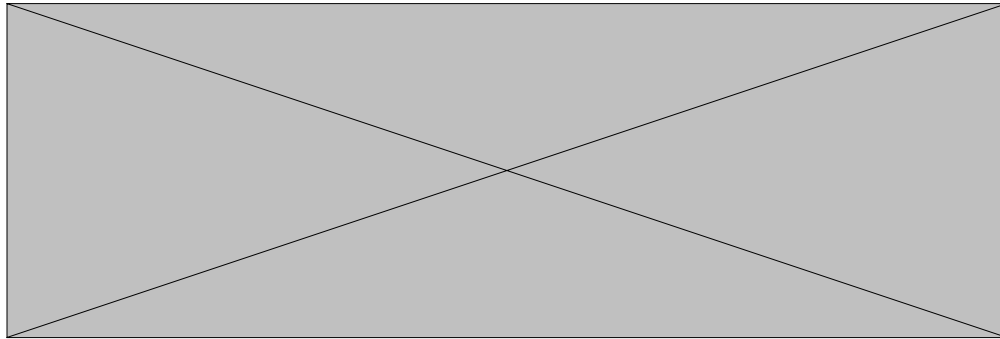
filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current Charter.

The Council is established to further the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701), the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd), other Acts applicable to specific bureaus, and Executive Order 13443, "Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation." The Council is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-09T17:56:57-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Department of the Interior Names New National Park Service Deputy Director
Received: 2018-01-09T17:57:53-05:00



Date: January 9, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Department of the Interior Names New National Park Service Deputy Director

WASHINGTON The Department of the Interior today announced Paul Daniel (Dan) Smith as a new Deputy Director of the National Park Service (NPS). Smith brings nearly four decades of public service experience, including serving as superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park in Virginia, to this important leadership role.

As Deputy Director, Smith will have a crucial role in leading more than 20,000 National Park Service employees who care for America's 417 national parks and NPS programs that help communities across the nation preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities.

“Dan has a strong record of leadership in the National Park Service both in Washington and on the front lines as a superintendent of a park that tells the stories of some of the most consequential moments in American history,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “I can think of no one better equipped to help lead our efforts to ensure that the National Park Service is on firm footing to preserve and protect the most spectacular places in the United States for future generations.”

“It is an honor and a privilege to return to Washington D.C., with the invaluable perspective from the field that I gained during my time as Superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park,” said Smith.

Smith served as superintendent of Colonial National Historical Park from 2004 to 2015, where

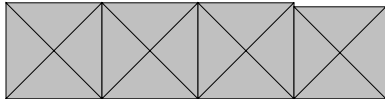
he managed a 23-mile parkway and three historic sites including the first permanent British colony in America at Jamestown and the site of the 1781 Revolutionary War victory of General George Washington over British General Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. During his tenure at the park Smith oversaw the completion of a new visitor center and a new research center at Jamestown in preparation for the 400th anniversary commemoration of the settlement in 2007.

Smith's other assignments in the National Park Service include serving as Special Assistant to the National Park Service Director and Assistant Director of Legislative and Congressional Affairs. He also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the Department of the Interior, where he was responsible for the multi-billion dollar budgets and programs of the National Park Service and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in coordination with congressional representatives, state and local governments, and other important partners. Smith worked at the General Services Administration for ten years.

In addition to Smith's Executive Branch experience he has held numerous important roles in the Legislative Branch as a staff member for a U.S. senator, a congressman, and two congressional committees.

Smith was born in Maine. A Vietnam War veteran, Smith served in the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Master of Science in Recreation Administration from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He is an Eagle Scout.

###



To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Chrissy Harbin
Sent: 2018-01-10T14:01:38-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: start of email on ocs
Received: 2018-01-10T14:01:50-05:00

Thank you!! Will send to my team and keep you posted on future engagement. Thanks for the info and hopping on the call yesterday.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 10, 2018, at 1:50 PM, Funes, Jason <jason_funes@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

Hey Chrissy,
Here is that background info for you...

As you are likely aware, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced the next step for developing the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program) for 2019-2024, which proposes to make over 90 percent of the total OCS acreage and more than 98 percent of undiscovered, technically recoverable oil and gas resources in federal offshore areas available to consider for future exploration and development.

The Draft Proposed Program (DPP) includes 47 potential lease sales in 25 of the 26 planning areas 19 sales off the coast of Alaska, 7 in the Pacific Region, 12 in the Gulf of Mexico, and 9 in the Atlantic Region. This is the largest number of lease sales ever proposed for the National OCS Program's 5-year lease schedule.

Release of the DPP is an early step in a multi-year process to develop a final National OCS Program for 2019-2024. Today's draft proposal was informed by approximately 816,000 comments from a wide variety of stakeholders, including state governments, federal agencies, public interest groups, industry, and the public. Before the program is finalized, the public will have additional opportunities to provide input. The 2017-2022 Five Year Program will continue to be implemented until the new National OCS Program is approved.

In conjunction with the announcement of the DPP, the Department is also publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Public meetings will be held around the country to receive comments on the DPP and to inform the Draft Programmatic EIS.

Using the information received from these public meetings, BOEM will prepare a Proposed Program (PP), which will be published for public comment, to be followed by a Proposed Final Program (PFP). In addition, the Department will prepare a Draft Programmatic EIS to be published concurrently with the PP, and a Final EIS with the PFP.

The DPP and the NOI will be available for public comment for 60 days following the publication of the documents in the Federal Register.

For the press release, please visit: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-announces-plan-unleashing-americas-offshore-oil-and-gas-potential>

For a FAQ, how to comment, public meeting information, maps and more, please visit: <https://www.boem.gov/National-OCS-Program/>

Land Water Conservation Fund information with state by state breakdown of funds dispersed:

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-announces-943-million-states-parks-and-outdoor-recreation-through-land>

Federal Register to comment on new 5yr plan:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/01/08/2018-00083/notice-of-availability-of-the-2019-2024-draft-proposed-outer-continental-shelf-oil-and-gas-leasing>

Townhall Style Meetings Jan 16 to Feb 28:

<https://www.boem.gov/National-Program-Participate/>

FAQ's:

<https://www.boem.gov/National-Program-FAQ/>

For Future contacts:

Todd M. Wynn
Director of the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Desk: (202) 208 6649

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Williams, Timothy
Sent: 2018-01-12T11:33:40-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: BLM Public Notice for Monuments
Received: 2018-01-12T11:34:19-05:00
[BLM Utah NewsRelease GSENM 01218.docx](#)
[BLM Utah NewsRelease BENM 011218.docx](#)

Please see attached press releases from BLM. The links will work once the sites are live which should be Monday or Tuesday.

All the best, Tim Williams

--

Tim Williams
Deputy Director External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
Desk: (202) 208 6015
Cell: (202) 706 4982

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

News Release

Washington, D.C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 12, 2018

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

BLM seeks public input in planning process for Bears Ears National Monument

WASHINGTON— On Dec. 4, 2017, President Donald Trump issued Proclamation 9681 modifying the boundary of the Bears Ears National Monument to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of important objects of historic and scientific interest. This action is part of a larger effort by President Trump and the Department of the Interior to ensure that the broad powers granted to the President under the Antiquities Act are not used as a tool to unnecessarily restrict access to public land on a large scale.

The Bureau of Land Management Utah State Office is seeking public input in advance of preparing land use plans for Bears Ears National Monument as modified by Proclamation 9681. These planning efforts are an opportunity to enhance our relationships with the State of Utah and local communities. The BLM will develop these plans to protect objects of historic and scientific interest, consistent with Presidential Proclamation 9681.

The publication of the *Notice of Intent to Prepare Monument Management Plans for the Bears Ears National Monument Indian Creek and Shash Jaa Units and associated Environmental Impact Statement* in the Federal Register today initiated the public scoping period for the land use planning process. The BLM will accept comments for at least 60 days, or for 15 days after the last scheduled public scoping meeting, whichever is later.

The new land use plans will provide clarity to the public on how they can enjoy Bears Ears National Monument. With State, local, and public participation, the agency will develop alternatives for the land use plans. The public is encouraged to identify issues, management questions, or concerns that should be addressed in this process. Future public scoping meetings will also provide an opportunity to speak with resource specialists and deliver written comments in person.

The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/utah>. The agency will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

Comments may be submitted by using any of the following methods:

- Email: blm_ut_monticello_monuments@blm.gov
- ePlanning: <https://goo.gl/uLrEae>
- Mail: P.O. Box 7 Monticello, UT 84535

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. The BLM will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

For further information concerning the land use planning process, please contact Lance Porter, District Manager at (435) 259-2100. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Diverse activities authorized on these lands generated \$75 billion in sales of goods and services throughout the American economy in fiscal year 2016 more than any other agency in the Department of the Interior. These activities supported more than 372,000 jobs.

-BLM-



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

News Release

Washington, D.C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 12, 2018

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

BLM seeks public input in planning process for Grand Staircase-Escalante region

WASHINGTON—On Dec. 4, 2017, President Donald Trump issued Proclamation 9682 modifying the boundary of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of important objects of historic and scientific interest. This action is part of a larger effort by President Trump and the Department of the Interior to ensure that the broad powers granted to the President under the Antiquities Act are not used as a tool to unnecessarily restrict access to public land on a large scale.

The Bureau of Land Management Utah State Office is seeking public input in advance of preparing land use plans for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument as modified by Proclamation 9682 and other public lands previously included in the monument, that were excluded from the boundaries by Proclamation 9682. These planning efforts are an opportunity to enhance our relationships with the State of Utah and local communities. The BLM will develop these land use plans to improve access, facilitate multiple-uses, and within the national monument, care for and manage objects of historic and scientific interest, consistent with Presidential Proclamation 9682.

The publication of the *Notice of Intent to Prepare Resource Management Plans for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units and Federal Lands previously included in the Monument that are excluded from the Boundaries and Associated Environmental Impact Statement* in the Federal Register today initiated the public scoping period for the land use planning process. The BLM will accept comments for at least 60 days, or for 15 days after the last scheduled public scoping meeting, whichever is later.

The new land use plans will provide clarity for the public on how they can enjoy and use public lands within the monument. With State, local, and public participation, the agency will develop alternatives for the land use plans. The land use planning process will also determine how public lands outside the monument will be managed, according to other relevant laws and resource considerations.

The BLM welcomes participation from the public, which the agency will utilize in the development of alternatives for the land use plans. The public is encouraged to identify issues, management questions, or concerns that should be addressed in this process. Future public scoping meetings will also provide an opportunity to speak with resource specialists and submit written comments in person.

The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/utah>. The agency will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

Comments may be submitted by using any of the following methods:

- Email: BLM_UT_CCD_monuments@blm.gov
- ePlanning: <https://goo.gl/EHvhbc>
- Mail: 669 S Hwy 89A Kanab, UT 84741

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. The BLM will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

For further information concerning the land use planning process, please contact Matthew Betenson, Associate Monument Manager at (435) 644-1200. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Diverse activities authorized on these lands generated \$75 billion in sales of goods and services throughout the American economy in fiscal year 2016 more than any other agency in the Department of the Interior. These activities supported more than 372,000 jobs.

-BLM-

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-12T14:26:01-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Conference Call at 3pm - Common Regional Boundaries Stakeholder Call
Received: 2018-01-12T14:26:37-05:00
[Common Regional Boundaries FAQ.pdf](#)
[Draft Common Regional Boundaries Map.pdf](#)

Department of Interior Associate Deputy Secretary to Discuss Draft Common Regional Boundaries

Department of the Interior (DOI) Associate Deputy Secretary, Jim Cason, will host a stakeholder call on January 12th at 2pm to discuss proposed draft DOI common regional boundaries..

The discussion will be focused on common regional boundaries for the Bureaus within the Department. We envision these proposed boundary changes will reduce administrative redundancy, share resources more effectively, improve coordination among federal, state and local agencies, improve interagency coordination, drive more decisions to be made at the regional level rather than in Washington DC, and facilitate joint problem-solving.

The conference call will outline the vision for the proposed common regional boundaries, address reasons for the proposed boundary changes and highlight the next steps.

Attached is the proposed draft common regional boundary map and FAQs related to the draft common regional boundary concept. As always, we look forward to your participation on the call and your feedback.

WHO: Jim Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary, Department of Interior

WHAT: Stakeholder call on draft common regional boundaries concept

WHEN: January 12 , 2018 at 3p.m. (Eastern)

CALL: (b)(5) **(Password:** (b)(5)

Jason Funes

Special Assistant

Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

Department of the Interior

Office: (202) 208-5541



Department of the Interior Common Regions

As of January 3, 2018

DRAFT



Common Regional Boundaries

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is Interior changing long standing regional boundaries?

A. We want to provide better management on an ecosystem basis to include critical components such as wildlife corridors, watersheds, and trail systems. The USGS has provided draft regional boundaries based on watersheds as a template. By having common regional boundaries based on natural features like ecosystems and watersheds we can improve interagency coordination and citizen service, since all of our executives within a given region will have a shared frame of geographic reference. We also believe common regions will make us more efficient, which would be helpful given our continuing budget pressures. With more decisions made at the regional level and fewer in Washington DC, we hope the public will conclude that we are making better decisions.

2. Will all bureaus be affected by the new boundaries?

A. Generally yes, but since Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) are focused on activity in the marine environment, they will be the least affected.

3. When will the new boundaries take effect?

A. Once Congress approves the necessary reprogramming request we will then need to take some internal administrative actions, but we expect the boundaries for the thirteen new common regions will take effect in the second half of FY 2018.

4. Will there be a pilot of the new common region concept? If so, where, when, and what will be its scope?

A. The current idea is to launch the concept in Alaska first, since it is a large geographic area, most bureaus are active there, all existing regional offices are already in the same city, and there is only one state government with which to interact.

5. When is common region concept going to begin?

A. FY 2018, after Congress approves the reprogramming for the new regional boundaries.

6. When will the common regions be fully implemented?

A. It will take several years, because there are lots of details that will need to be worked out over time.

7. Will DOI break existing leases for office space?

A. Generally not, since we want to avoid any extra financial costs that may be associated with breaking existing leases.

8. When will the new regional hub cities be identified?

A. Perhaps as soon as the second half of FY 2018.

9. Has DOI spoken to General Services Administration (GSA) about what the new regional hub cities will be?

A. We have had a few very preliminary discussions, simply to get an idea about the range of available space costs and space availability in a few western cities. We don't plan any moves in FY 18.

10. Who will be in charge of each common region?

A. There will be a regional leader who will have lead responsibility for each common region.

11. What will be the scope of responsibilities for each regional leader?

A. The responsibilities will be to coordinate a specified set of mission and administrative functions that are common to more than one bureau within the region.

12. Will the regional leader control all decisions of all bureaus in the common region?

A. No, only matters involving more than one bureau.

13. Will the common regions lead to closing of any national parks, national wildlife refuges, national fish hatcheries, or BIA agency offices?

A. No. There will be little to no impact on these types of local offices that are tied to specific natural or cultural resources or Indian tribes.

14. How will the new DOI common regional boundaries affect other agencies like USFS, NMFS, EPA, and the Army Corps of Engineers?

A. We will invite other agencies to co-locate with us or designate liaison officers to each of our common regions.

15. What will be the role of bureau directors and assistant secretaries after the reorganization?

A. Bureau directors and assistant secretaries will continue to have authority over national policy, budget, personnel, training, uniforms, workforce planning and related functions, as well as line authority over mission areas that are unique to particular bureaus.

16. How will the new regional boundaries affect relationships with States and Counties?

A. We expect these relationships will be improved since more decisions will be made at the regional level and not elevated to Washington DC for resolution.

17. How will the new regional boundaries affect relationships with Indian tribes?

A. We expect these relationships will be improved since more decisions will be made at the regional level and not elevated to Washington DC for resolution.

18. Will there be tribal consultations before the new boundaries are finalized?

A. Yes.

19. Isn't it a problem if a single state is split into more than one common region?

A. No, since there is ample evidence that this works fine in practice, based on decades of experience with the current regional boundaries of the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers.

20. Will front line supervisors in bureau field offices report to a different boss as a result of the new regional boundaries?

A. No, however the regional leader for the common region will be the ultimate regional decision maker for many bureau employees.

21. How will the new regional boundaries affect how employees do their jobs every day in the field?

A. The new boundaries should have very little impact on field operations, except that field level employees can expect more leadership support for taking steps to coordinate more closely with employees in their sister bureaus or other federal agencies that affect our mission in the field.

22. If the regional leader is not from my bureau, how can he or she make responsible decisions affecting my program?

A. The regional leader will be able to consider the advice of each bureau's chain of command within the common region.

23. Has the Department established standard operating procedures, MOAs, chains of command or organization charts on how the current structure will work within the new regional map?

A. We plan to work with current regional directors and bureau leadership to determine the most effective and reasonable ways to operationalize the new approach. Any changes will need to be carefully identified and thoughtfully implemented.

24. Would regional changes affect any statutory responsibilities?

A. We do not anticipate the need to change any bureau's statutory authorizations as a result of implementing common regions.

25. Does the Department expect each bureau to be represented in each region? How will this work for bureaus that have limited or no responsibilities in a region (e.g. OSM in the insular region)?

A. We do not expect that every bureau will have a regional director in each new region; we will let existing programmatic responsibilities be the determining factor in that regard.

26. What authority will the new common regions have versus the existing structure? Will the new regional leader be the responsible officer for construction projects, records, procurement, and other activities conducted by staff currently located in another regional office? How will this work? For example, if a current project or program is in the NPS Midwest Region, managed out of Omaha, and the project now is in the DOI Great Lakes-Ohio region, where would the management happen?

A. In general, activities or functions common to more than one bureau will be under the direction of the regional leader in that region. For major projects that are already underway it may be prudent to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. As existing office space leases expire, staff associated with a regional office function will gradually migrate to the identified regional hub city in each newly designated region.

27. What if the project, agreement or plan was previously within one region, but is now split between two or more regions?

A. In these situations, the region that is designated the lead region will be the one whose staff and expertise is best positioned to bring the project, agreement, or plan to a successful completion.

28. How will the Department manage existing MOAs and MOUs with other agencies at existing regions?

A. Decisions to transfer the lead responsibility for a MOU or MOA with another agency will be made on a case-by-case basis. Considerations will include whether the agreement is geographic or programmatic in scope, and which of the new regions has the personnel or expertise in the best position to effectively implement the agreement.

29. Considering most DOI bureaus have less than 13 regions, this would increase the number of managers. Would this require hiring more managers?

A. During the first year or so transition period it is more likely that a single manager might have responsibilities in more than one region. Over time, it is likely that the total number of bureau regional directors will increase so that all regions where a bureau has a significant presence have a senior manager located in that region. However, some of the new regional directors might be GS-15s as opposed to SESers, if their bureau's presence in the new region is relatively minor.

30. Do you expect an official in a current regional office to be responsible for more than one region? How would the chain of command work for this?

A. It is possible that during the transition period a single senior executive might have more than one supervisor. However, field offices of bureaus will only report to one individual.

31. Does this initiative require the reassignment of any personnel (e.g., will current Regional Director positions be changed)?

A. Generally no. We will want to make sure that there is eventually one regional leader in place in each region, and more broadly, that there is at least one SESer in each region. In one or two instances, that may involve the near-term change in duty station of someone now in the SES.

32. Who will serve as regional leaders for these new regions? Will this affect their position description? If there are multiple virtual RDs within a new Region, to whom will existing staff report?

A. Regional leaders will be career or non-career members of the SES. They will have position descriptions created that describe their responsibilities within the new region. Their particular responsibilities and therefore their position description may vary a bit from region to region as a function of the DOI work that is taking place within each region. Bureaus will continue to have Regional Directors and their bureau chains of command will report to them. The difference will be for mission areas or administrative functions that are common to more than one bureau within the same region, the Regional Directors for those bureaus will take direction from the regional leader. Supervisors in individual bureaus will continue to report to a Regional Director from that bureau. The Regional Directors will report to the regional leader for certain specified programmatic and administrative activity, and to their bureau director in headquarters on those matters not within the scope of responsibilities of the regional leader.

33. How will the bureau Regional Directors coordinate with counterparts in other bureaus in the same region?

A. Bureau Regional Directors will have their traditional authorities and upward reporting relationships for programs and functions not specified as being within the purview of the regional leader. For those programs and functions that they share with other bureaus within that region, they can and should coordinate with each other, but they will be ultimately responsible to the regional leader within that region.

34. How will the bureau Regional Directors coordinate with other Regional Directors within their same bureau?

A. Bureaus will continue to have routine meeting of headquarters and regional leadership, and coordinate with each other routinely in order to accomplish their missions.

35. How will a bureau deal with stakeholders (including state and tribal governments) that were previously within one region, but now are split between two or more virtual regions?

A. Tribal governments will have one BIA Regional Director and one regional leader with whom they might interact, depending on the issue. In some cases a state may find itself in more than one of the new regions. While at first blush that might seem problematic, decades of experience in the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers indicates that the arrangement works.

36. The new regional boundaries map appears to split-up reservations (Uintah and Ouray, Colville, Yakama, etc.) How does DOI plan on working with tribes that span two regions?

A. We believe we have made successfully adjusted the new regional boundaries so that no Indian reservation, national park, or similar land management unit is in more than one of the new regions. If we have somehow failed to accomplish that goal in a particular place, we would like to know about it so we can address the situation.

37. As this is a policy decision affecting tribes, will DOI consult with tribes on this under EO 13175?

A. Yes, DOI plans to consult with tribes before BIA and BIE are incorporated into the new regional management concept and the new regional boundaries.

38. As these regions were designed to address ecosystem-based management, how would this reorganization address tribal needs and help DOI fulfill trust responsibilities?

A. Indian reservations exist in unique geographic areas, and while the topography within large reservations may span more than one ecosystem, a management perspective that is based on natural features and regional control rather than administrative boundaries with primary reporting relationships to Washington DC should result in better decisions for everyone, Indian and non-Indian, living in a geographic area.

39. What administrative simplicity would be achieved by using county-line based boundaries? Do the administrative benefits of using county lines apply equally to all agencies?

A. The basic idea behind the new regional boundaries was to try to draw them based on ecosystem and physiographic features. Watersheds are well-defined and well-recognized natural features that serve as a reasonable approximation for ecosystems, hence the new regional

boundaries closely approximate watershed boundaries. However, human beings are much more accustomed to dealing with county boundaries than watershed boundaries as they lead their daily lives, so for convenience the new regional watershed-based boundaries are adjusted to line up with county boundaries.

40. Do any bureaus currently draw regional boundaries along county lines?

A. Most DOI's bureaus have historically drawn regional boundaries along state lines.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-19T18:33:43-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: BOEM Seeks Public Input for 2019-2024 National OCS Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program
Received: 2018-01-19T18:34:21-05:00

Esteemed Colleagues,

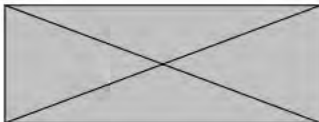
For those (or your members) who may not be able to attend the regularly scheduled "town hall" style meetings regarding the Draft Proposed Program regarding the new OCS 5 year plan, please see the press release below for information on virtually attending those meetings so that you can still provide input regarding your respective state...

Also here is the link for comments on the federal register:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/01/08/2018-00083/notice-of-availability-of-the-2019-2024-draft-proposed-outer-continental-shelf-oil-and-gas-leasing>

Thank You,
Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

Launches Virtual Meeting Room Ahead of 23-City Public Meeting Tour



BOEM Seeks Public Input for 2019-2024 National OCS Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Launches Virtual Meeting and 23-City Public Meeting Tour

Contact: Tracey Moriarty
703-787-1571

On January 4, 2018 the Department of Interior announced publication of a Draft Proposed Program (DPP) in support of the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program), as well as a Notice of Intent (NOI) to develop a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS).

In order to obtain public input for these two documents, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will be traveling to 23 cities to host a series of public meetings. The meetings will feature information stations hosted by BOEM experts, who will be available to discuss the National OCS Program and DPP, as well as potential environmental issues. In addition to information stations, attendees will be able to provide hand-written or electronic comments for BOEM's consideration.

BOEM has also launched a virtual meeting room on the BOEM website to allow those who are unable to attend a meeting access to the same information and a means to participate in the commenting process. Citizens can provide comments by visiting www.regulations.gov or www.boem.gov/comment.

The entire list of public meetings are available at boem.gov/National-Program-Participate and the virtual meeting room is available at boem.gov/virtual.

After considering information provided by the public, BOEM will prepare a Proposed Program, which will be published for a 90-day public comment period, to be followed by a Proposed Final Program (PFP).

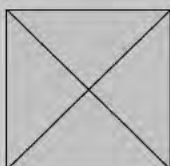
BOEM will publish a draft PEIS for public comment concurrently with the Proposed Program and a final PEIS concurrently with the PFP.

The draft PEIS and the final PEIS will examine the potential environmental impacts of the program options and alternatives and will be available to the Secretary of the Interior prior to him making decisions on Proposed Program and the Proposed Final Program.

- BOEM -

About the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) promotes economic development, energy independence, and environmental protection through responsible, science-based management of offshore conventional and renewable energy and marine mineral resources.



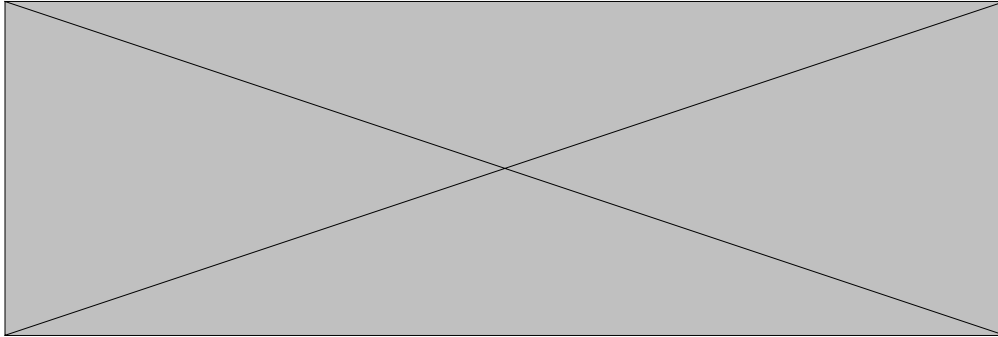
For More Information:

BOEM
Office of Public Affairs
202.208.6474

Please visit us at

www.BOEM.gov

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-19T18:42:03-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Approves the Shawnee Tribe's Fee-to-Trust Application for a Gaming Facility
Received: 2018-01-19T18:42:37-05:00



Date: January 19, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Approves the Shawnee Tribe's Fee-to-Trust Application for a Gaming Facility

Project will bring in \$30M in annual revenue and create 200 permanent jobs

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. At a signing ceremony today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke approved the Shawnee Tribe's application to put 102.98 acres of land in Guymon, Texas County, Oklahoma, into federal Indian trust status for gaming. The Shawnee Tribe proposes to develop a 42,309-square foot gaming facility on the site comprised of a 20,206-square foot gaming floor, a restaurant, retail space, and office spaces for the Shawnee Tribe Gaming Commission. When completed, the project is expected to generate a \$30 million annual impact for the local economy, including creating 200 permanent jobs. The federally recognized tribe, landless for well over 160 years, is headquartered in Miami, Okla., and has approximately 2,500 members.

"One of my top priorities for the Department of the Interior is to make tribal sovereignty meaningful, and that includes providing the basis for tribes to build and strengthen their economies," **Secretary Zinke said.** "This gaming facility will create 200 jobs and bring in \$30 million annually to the Tribe."

"I want to thank Secretary Zinke for approving the Shawnee Tribe's application to put land into trust, which will provide the Shawnee people with their first land base in well over a century," **said Shawnee Tribe Chief Ron Sparkman.** "We've worked hard to set ourselves on the path to a better future, and this project will help us achieve our goals of tribal self-sufficiency through economic progress."

“It is fitting we follow the acknowledgement by Congress to offer the Shawnee Tribe the ability to self-determination and self-governance by allowing economic development opportunities,” **said Governor Mary Fallin.** “I concur with the secretary of the interior’s determination that the Shawnee Tribe’s proposal will provide economic development to the Guymon and surrounding area. This will also benefit the Shawnee Tribe in helping it develop a funding source as it works toward self-determination and self-governance.”

“Federally recognized tribes should be able thrive and serve as steadfast contributors to our economy, and I am confident that the Shawnee Tribe will do so with their proposal,” **said Congressman Tom Cole.** “I’d like to thank Secretary Zinke for leading this effort, and for being at the forefront of recognizing self-governance and sovereignty among Native American tribes. Indian Country has been successful in exercising its sovereignty through its enterprises and this proposal is a clear example of that right.”

“I congratulate Chief Sparkman, the Shawnee tribal council, and tribal members for achieving this important goal,” **said John Tahsuda, Interior’s principal deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs.** “Their efforts to create greater economic prosperity for themselves and their future generations, combined with the approval of their fee-to-trust application, underscore the Secretary’s determination that tribal sovereignty must mean something.”

The Tribe’s application was considered under the Secretary’s authority to acquire the land in trust for it under the Shawnee Status Act of 2000 through the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934.

The application met the Department’s requirements for placing land into trust for gaming, despite the proposed site’s location being approximately 370 miles west of the Tribe’s headquarters in Ottawa County, and the Department received comments in support of the proposed project.

Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin, concurring with the Department’s positive two-part determination on the application, called for the expedient acquisition of the site into trust. Local officials supporting the application include a Texas County commissioner and the mayor of Guymon.

It was also supported by several Oklahoma tribes including the Cherokee Nation, the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, the Miami Tribe, the Modoc Tribe, the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, the Peoria Tribe of Indians, the Quapaw Tribe, the Seneca-Cayuga Nation, and the Wyandotte Nation.

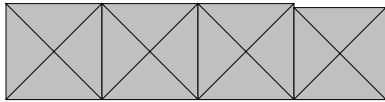
Until the Secretary’s approval of its land-into-trust for gaming application, the Shawnee Tribe had been landless since the mid-19th century, when the 1854 Treaty of Washington terminated the Tribe’s 1.6 million-acre reservation in Kansas, which had been created under earlier treaties, allotted approximately 200,000 acres to individual Indians, and opened the majority of the remaining lands to non-Indian settlement. In 1869, the United States relocated the Shawnee tribal members in Kansas, known as the Loyal Shawnee because of their service to the Union during the Civil War, to present-day Oklahoma, but did not provide the tribe with its own land base.

In 2000, Congress passed the Shawnee Status Act which reaffirmed the Tribe’s federal recognition status. That act also confirmed the Tribe’s eligibility to have land acquired in trust,

but prohibits it from acquiring trust land within the jurisdiction of the Cherokee Nation or any other tribe without its consent. The Cherokee Nation's constitution prohibits it from consenting to any action that would diminish its jurisdiction.

Because of the act's limitations, the only place the Shawnee Tribe can effectively acquire trust land is in the Oklahoma Panhandle.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-22T11:30:15-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: BOEM Postpones Public Meetings for 2019-2024 National OCS Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program
Received: 2018-01-22T11:57:30-05:00

Esteemed Colleagues,

Due to the lapse in government funding, this week's Public Meetings regarding the new 5 year OCS DPP have been postponed and stay tuned as more may be postponed if the government continues to be shutdown.

Regretfully, I will also be unavailable during this time via email or phone until the government shutdown ends.

By law, I will be back in the office the business day after the federal government is funded, and we will let you know when these public meetings are rescheduled.

Thank You,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Office of Public Affairs

[<boempublicaffairs@boem.gov>](mailto:boempublicaffairs@boem.gov)

Date: Mon, Jan 22, 2018 at 10:13 AM

Subject: BOEM Postpones Public Meetings for 2019-2024 National OCS Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program

To: jason_funes@ios.doi.gov



BOEM Postpones Public Meetings for 2019-2024 National OCS Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program

Dear Stakeholder:

As many of you are aware, annual funding for the government expired on January 20, 2018. A lapse in funding means that a number of government activities have ceased due to a lack of appropriated funding and because a number of employees have been temporarily furloughed.

As such, the meetings scheduled for January 22-25, 2018 in support of the 2019-2014 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program) are postponed.

If the government shutdown continues, any public meetings scheduled during that time also will be rescheduled. After the government opens again, we will update the status of any postponed meetings via our website at:

<https://www.boem.gov/National-Program-Participate/#meeting>.

Background

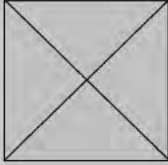
On January 4, 2018, the Department of Interior **announced** publication of a Draft Proposed Program (DPP) in support of the National OCS Program, as well as a Notice of Intent (NOI) to develop a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). In order to obtain public input for these two documents, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) scheduled a series of public meetings. Information about the National OCS program can be found at <https://www.boem.gov/National-Program>.

Thank you,

Tracey Moriarty
Deputy Chief and Media Manager, Office of Public Affairs
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Tel: (703) 787-1571
Cell: (202) 304-6476
Tracey.Moriarty@boem.gov

About the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

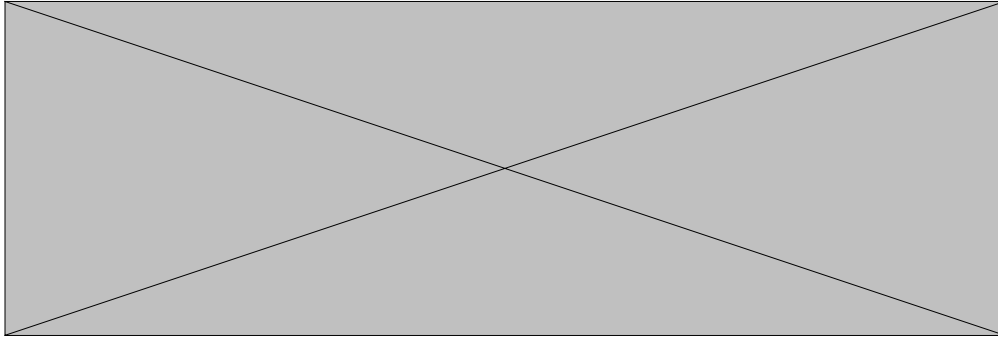
The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) promotes economic development, energy independence, and environmental protection through responsible, science-based management of offshore conventional and renewable energy and marine mineral resources.



For More Information:
BOEM Office of Public Affairs
Tracey Moriarty (703) 787-1571

Please visit us at
www.BOEM.gov

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-22T12:09:26-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Approves Initial Plan to Build a Life-Saving Road for Alaska Native Village of King Cove
Received: 2018-01-22T12:16:30-05:00



Date: January 22, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Approves Initial Plan to Build a Life-Saving Road for Alaska Native Village of King Cove

WASHINGTON - Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed an agreement with the Alaska Native King Cove Native Corp., which is made up of tribal members from the local Agdaagux and Belkofski tribes, to build a life-saving road between the Native village and the nearby all-weather airport in Cold Bay. The village of King Cove is an isolated area in the Aleutian peninsula that currently lacks any safe and reliable ground transportation for medical evacuation in the case of an emergency. There have been 18 deaths attributed to the lack of road access, either in plane crashes or the inability to receive timely medical treatment. In a community with no hospital or doctor, King Cove residents must fly 600 miles to Anchorage for most medical procedures.

The agreement signed today begins a process between Interior and the King Cove Native Corp. of identifying land of equal value needed for a single lane, restricted-access road.

The Aleut residents of King Cove have worked for more than three decades to win federal approval of a single-lane, life-saving road corridor connecting their isolated community to the all-weather Cold Bay Airport. A small stretch of road, approximately 12 miles long, is all that is needed to link King Cove to the existing road system within the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, which is located next to an 10,000-foot runway. The corridor will provide the village with its first and only dependable ground transportation for medical emergencies.

"Above all, the federal government's job is to keep our people safe and respect our treaty commitments with Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Today, I am proudly fulfilling both of those missions," **said Secretary Zinke.** "Previous administrations prioritized birds over human

lives, and that's just wrong. The people of King Cove have been stewarding the land and wildlife for thousands of years and I am confident that working together we will be able to continue responsible stewardship while also saving precious lives."

"The people of King Cove deeply appreciate the dedication and hard work Secretary Zinke and his team have put in to make this land exchange possible," **said Della Trumble, spokeswoman for the King Cove Native Corp. and a member of the local Agdaagux tribe.** "Access to the all-weather airport in Cold Bay is truly a matter of life and death to us, so we are eternally grateful to all those who have listened to the people of our region. Today's agreement goes a long way toward restoring our faith that the federal government takes seriously its trust responsibility to the Aleut and to all Alaska Natives."

Also participating in the ceremony were Alaska Governor Bill Walker, Senators Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, Congressman Don Young, U.S. Coast Guard Vice Admiral, and more than 120 members of the Alaska Federation of Natives for an announcement on important Alaska priorities at the Department.

"Common sense and compassion have finally prevailed," **Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, said.** "For decades, the people of King Cove have asked for what virtually every other American already takes for granted - a reliable way to protect their health and safety and improve their quality of life. Previous administrations have focused on just about everything except the most obvious solution, which has always been a short, gravel connector road. I am so pleased for King Cove and deeply grateful to Secretary Zinke and President Trump for taking this critical step."

"For years, our federal government has been telling the people of King Cove that protecting birds is more important than their health and safety," **said Senator Dan Sullivan.** "This ends today. I thank Congressman Young and Senator Murkowski for all their hard work over the years to right this wrong. I thank the Trump administration for its support, and I particularly thank Secretary Zinke for listening to the people of King Cove, whose voices have been ignored all of these many years. This is a good day for Alaska and a good day for America."

"For many years, I and many other leaders from our state have advocated for construction of a life-saving road to connect King Cove and Cold Bay. Finally, the federal government has heard our voice," **said Governor Bill Walker.** "I thank Secretary Ryan Zinke and everyone else who had a hand in making this happen. Alaskans must control our own destiny, and this decision certainly empowers the residents of King Cove to make sure they are safe and healthy."

"This road will provide residents of King Cove safe and reliable access to an airstrip and to commercial medevac services," **said Admiral Paul F. Zukunft, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard.** "It will significantly reduce the risk our U.S. Coast Guard aircrews are exposed to while operating in one of the U.S. Coast Guard's most unforgiving environments - Alaska."

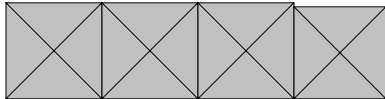
"I have been working with the residents of King Cove for over 30 years to help them get a life-saving road to the community of Cold Bay. This is a great day not only for King Cove, but for all of Alaska," **said Alaska Congressman Don Young.** "In 2013, Sally Jewell decided that birds were more important than people, and today we finally have a Secretary who takes the life and death of Alaska Natives seriously. I want to thank Secretary Zinke on behalf of all Alaskans for

his work in getting the King Cove road approved. I look forward to working with him on other issues for our great state.”

For photos from the signing event, see [Interior's Flickr page](#).

For B-roll from the event, see [Interior's YouTube page](#).

###



<https://youtu.be/pwWblIX7Gdg>

.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-25T15:23:36-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: DOI Accomplishments Being Celebrated - Day 1 Public Access
Received: 2018-01-25T15:30:18-05:00

Esteemed Colleagues,
Interior is currently rolling out a media campaign highlighting our accomplishments via videos on social media and op-eds in local papers across the country. This will take place weekdays until Wednesday of next week.

Please feel free to share these via your social media pages or websites.

Day 1: Public Access

The video links are below (op ed will be shared once released):

Twitter <https://twitter.com/Interior/status/956582487408435200>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/USInterior/videos/1537474796306196/>

<https://youtu.be/BQZgNcsO8h0>

Thank you,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-26T16:28:54-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: DOI Accomplishments Being Celebrated - Day 2 Regulatory Relief
Received: 2018-01-26T16:36:37-05:00

Esteemed Colleagues,

As DOI continues it's media campaign highlighting our accomplishments via videos on social media and op eds in local papers across the country; below is the link to our video on regulatory relief.

Once some of the op eds are published over the weekend, I will share those with you.

Please feel free to re-tweet and share this video on your social media pages.

[Day 2: Regulatory Relief](#)

Twitter <https://twitter.com/Interior/status/956978410009473030>

Thank you,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-29T17:37:20-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: DOI Accomplishments Being Celebrated - Day 3 Energy Dominance
Received: 2018-01-29T17:38:35-05:00

Esteemed Colleagues,

Please re-tweet and share this video on your social media pages regarding "Energy Dominance".

Twitter [Energy Dominance Video](#)

As DOI continues its media campaign highlighting our accomplishments via videos on social media and op eds in local papers across the country; below are links to the published Op Eds from previous topics of accomplishments:

Public Access (By Rick May Senior Advisor to the Secretary on Veterans and Sportsmen/Outdoor Rec) http://www.gazettextra.com/opinion/other_views/other_views_hunting_fishing_opportunities_expand_for_wisconsin/article_b904e6e4_554f_5482_9c88_d0e23d283c12.html

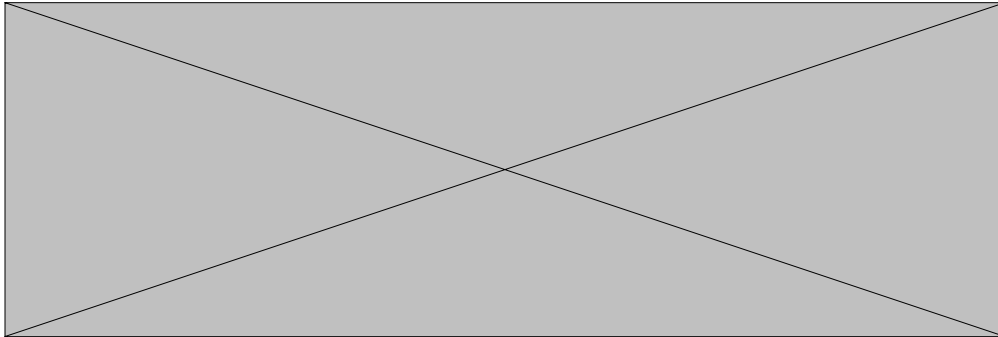
Regulatory Relief (By David Bernhardt Deputy Secretary) https://www.gjsentinel.com/opinion/columns/interior_s_regulatory_relief_is_paying_dividends_for_colorado/article_c281ab78_03be_11e8_bf89_10604b9f1ff4.html

Please feel free to re-tweet and share the above video and articles on your social media pages to share the DOI's great work with the rest of America.

Thank you,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-30T18:53:36-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: SECRETARY ZINKE APPLAUDS PRESIDENT TRUMP'S NOMINATION OF JAMES F. REILLY FOR INTERIOR DEPARTMENT
Received: 2018-01-30T18:54:15-05:00



Date: January 29, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

SECRETARY ZINKE APPLAUDS PRESIDENT TRUMP'S NOMINATION OF JAMES F. REILLY FOR INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

Geologist and former astronaut nominated to lead the U.S. Geological Survey

WASHINGTON On Friday, President Donald J. Trump announced the appointment of Dr. James F. Reilly to be the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for the U.S. Department of Interior. U.S. Secretary Ryan Zinke applauded President Trump's nomination.

As a former astronaut, Dr. Reilly completed three shuttle missions and five spacewalks during his 13 year career with NASA. He has logged over 856 hours in space. He also served on multiple geological expeditions in locations around the world, including the Antarctic Peninsula and the continental shelf of the Gulf of Mexico.

"Dr. Reilly has proven himself as an explorer, accomplished scientist, and public servant," **said Secretary Zinke**. "He will be a strong leader for the USGS as it addresses the natural resource opportunities and challenges we face as a nation. I look forward to working with him."

"I am honored to be nominated to serve at the Department of Interior under the Trump Administration," **said Dr. Reilly**. "The USGS is finding solutions to the natural resource issues that impact local communities and our nation, and I'm excited to lead its future endeavors."

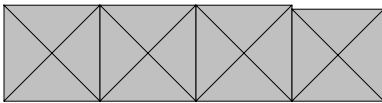
"Dr. Jim Reilly is uniquely-qualified candidate to become the next US Geological Survey Director," **said Senator Cory Gardner**. "As a former astronaut who has immense experience in

geological research, Dr. Reilly has a deep understanding of the issues at hand. He also has the management experience necessary to run USGS. It's also always good to have someone with some Colorado common sense in positions like this one. I look forward to Congress getting to know Dr. Reilly during the confirmation process."

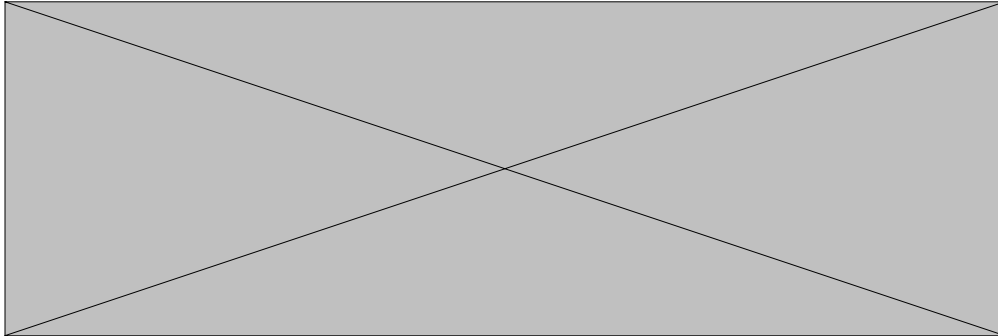
"James Reilly will make an excellent head of the USGS. He brings years of experience and knowledge to the table," **said Congressman Doug Lamborn.** "Without a doubt, the Department of the Interior will flourish under his leadership. It's always great to see a fellow Coloradan representing us."

Dr. Reilly currently serves as a subject matter expert and curriculum developer for the U.S. Air Force National Security Space Institute. He has extensive leadership experience in the private sector, military, and academic organizations. He received his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in Geosciences from the University of Texas at Dallas.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-01-31T09:31:56-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Responds to President Trump's State of the Union
Received: 2018-01-31T09:32:38-05:00



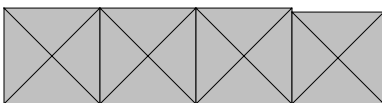
Date: January 30, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Responds to President Trump's State of the Union

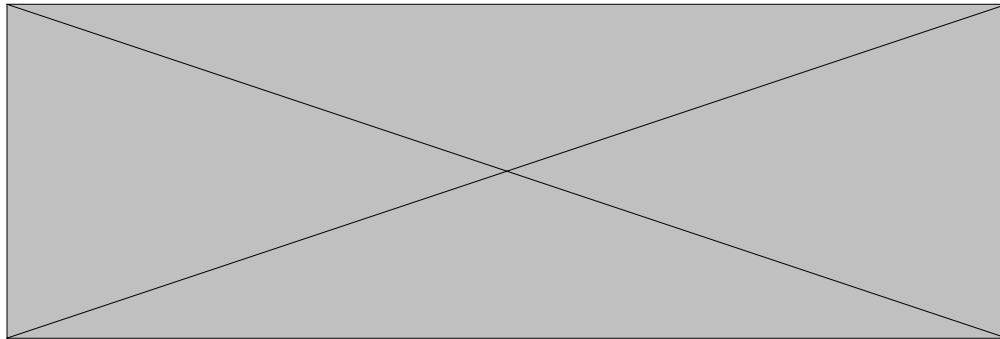
WASHINGTON The following statement is from U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke in response to President Trump's State of the Union.

"Tonight, President Trump spoke from the heart about issues that unite all Americans like rebuilding our infrastructure, improving education, growing the economy, and honoring our veterans and first responders. Already we have seen the President's policies and tax reform spark greater investments in our energy sector, from the coalmines of Appalachia to the oil fields of the Permian Basin, managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Interior stands ready to support the President's mission to unite and rebuild our great Nation."

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-01T15:42:45-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Secretary Zinke Signs Declaration Recognizing Marian Anderson Mural in First-Ever Designation of a Site Under the African American Civil Rights Network Act
Received: 2018-02-01T15:43:20-05:00



Date: February 1, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Signs Declaration Recognizing Marian Anderson Mural in First-Ever Designation of a Site Under the African American Civil Rights Network Act

WASHINGTON On the first day of Black History Month, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today celebrated the life and legacy of famed opera singer Marian Anderson by designating a mural depicting her 1939 Lincoln Memorial concert as a historic site under the [African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017](#). President Donald J. Trump signed the Act into law in January 2018. This is the first time the Act has been used to designate a site.

"The civil rights movement is one of the most moving chapters of the American story the people and events that shaped this period of history continue to inspire Americans to this day," **Secretary Zinke said.** "Few events from this era stand out as more inspirational than the story of accomplished opera singer Marian Anderson holding a concert on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial after being barred from singing at Constitution Hall because of the color of her skin. As Secretary of the Interior, I am proud to call special attention to this aspect of our American heritage on the 75th anniversary of the dedication of a mural that captures the spirit of that groundbreaking event and serves as a cultural resource of national significance."

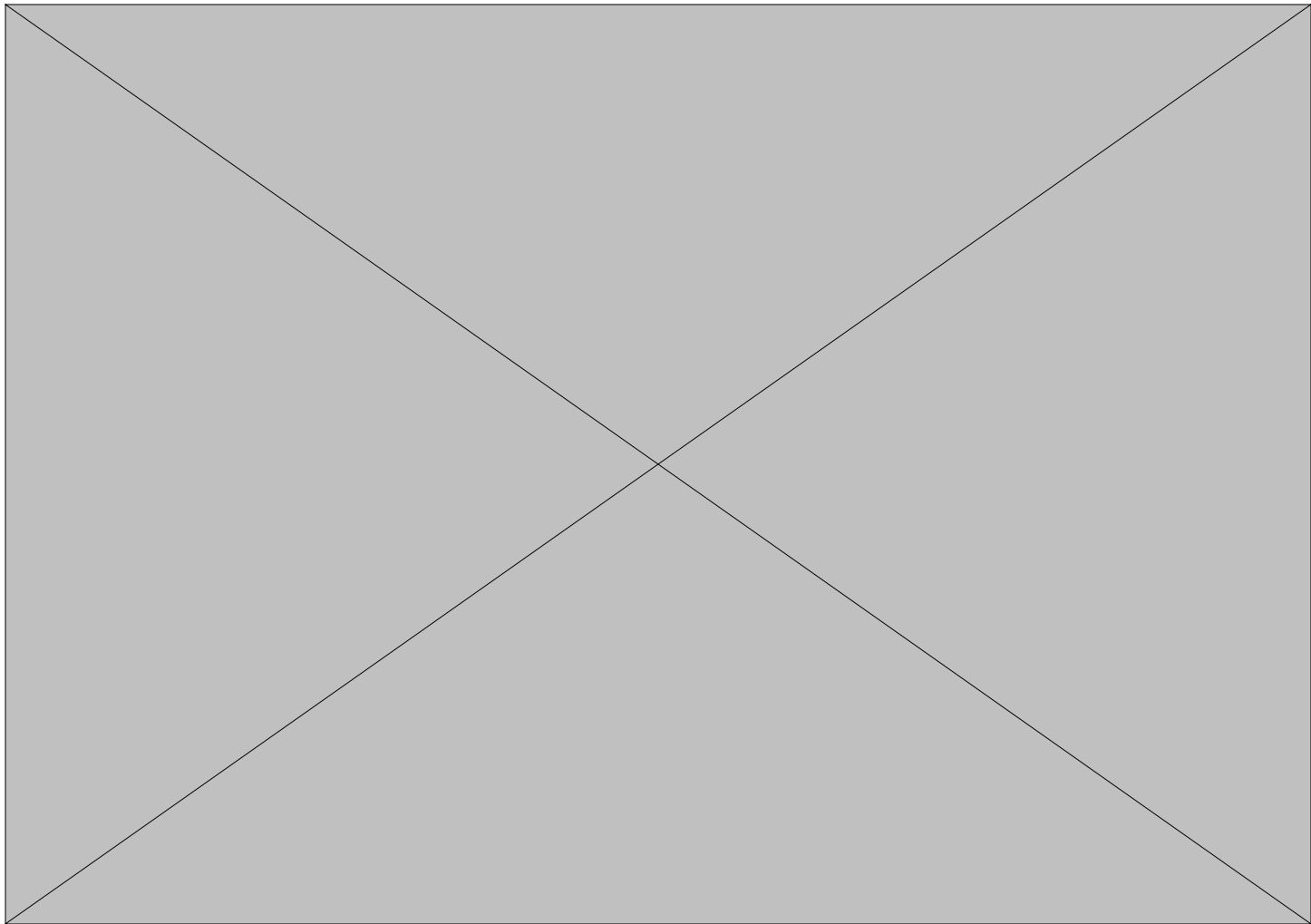
"I am glad to see Secretary Zinke and the Department of Interior utilizing the African American Civil Rights Network Act to honor such an important early moment in the Civil Rights movement," **South Carolina Senator Tim Scott said.** "The mural of Marian Anderson's

concert at the Lincoln Memorial captures this historic event for generations to come, and this recognition is a fantastic way to celebrate Black History Month.”

“It’s wonderful that Marian Anderson, and the mural depicting her 1939 Lincoln Memorial concert, are receiving recognition as we celebrate Black History Month," **said Utah Congresswoman Mia Love.** "Ms. Anderson’s concert at the Lincoln Memorial is an important and significant event in black history. Long before the modern civil rights movement, her accomplishments served as an example of a woman refused to be defined by society. She had a wonderful voice, and she used it to empower others at a time when wasn’t always easy to do so.”

“The Marian Anderson Museum is humbly honored to participate in such a historic and sacred event honoring the legacy of our great Marian and Mitchell Jamieson’s timely and poignant piece," **said Ms. Jillian Pirtle, President of the Marian Anderson Historical Society.**

The Secretary signed the declaration at a ceremony co-hosted by the Marian Anderson Historical Society, high school activist Desmond Hertzfelder, family members of the mural's artist and members of the Anderson family. The event featured a musical homage to the late singer and civil rights leader by the National Marian Anderson Scholar artist program based in Philadelphia.



About Marian Anderson's historic performance:

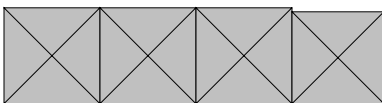
In 1939, Constitution Hall was at the center of a Civil Rights crisis when the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), an all-white organization of descendants of Revolutionary War soldiers, denied the world famous singer Marian Anderson use of its concert hall for a performance.

At that time, Constitution Hall was the only local venue large enough to accommodate Anderson's typical audience, but the venue banned black performers. The organization would not make an exception for Anderson and claimed the hall was already booked. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and Anderson's manager arranged for her to sing instead on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Accompanied by a piano, Anderson first serenaded an integrated gathering of 75,000 people with the patriotic ballad, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." Although Anderson and the DAR maintained the incident was merely a misunderstanding, the singer's outdoor concert became a symbol for Civil Rights activism nationwide. Anderson would go on to sing at Constitution Hall in front of an integrated audience in 1943.

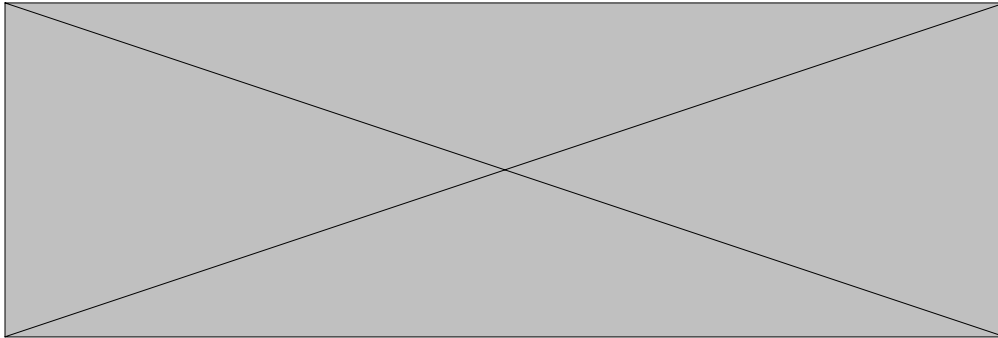
About the African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017:

This law requires the Department of the Interior to establish within the National Park Service (NPS) a U.S. Civil Rights Network that encompasses: (1) all NPS units and programs that relate to the African American civil rights movement from 1939 through 1968; (2) with the property owner's consent, other federal, state, local, and privately owned properties that relate or have a verifiable connection to such movement and that are included in, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places; and (3) other governmental and nongovernmental facilities and programs of an educational, research, or interpretive nature that are directly related to such movement.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-06T11:12:23-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Announces Expanded Role for Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas to Include Ocean Activities and International Affairs Part of Reorganization to Improve Missions and Efficiency
Received: 2018-02-06T11:13:23-05:00



Date: February 5, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces Expanded Role for Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas to Include Ocean Activities and International Affairs

Part of Reorganization to Improve Missions and Efficiency

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced today the signing of [Secretarial Order #3361](#), expanding the functions and responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech to include the Office of International Affairs and the Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program (Oceans Program) currently under the Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget. The new expanded portfolio will now be called the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

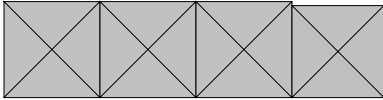
“This realignment is part of the Department’s overall efforts to reorganize for the next 100 years and improve mission achievement,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “By elevating the profiles of all three of these components within Interior, we aim to renew and strengthen U.S. strategic interests, strengthen relationships and policies for U.S. oceans, Great Lakes and coastal communities, and enhance collaboration globally on behalf of the American people.”

“I look forward to continuing my work on Insular Areas issues and incorporating Oceans and International issues all at the Secretarial level,” **said Assistant Secretary Domenech.** “My work to highlight their importance and critical priorities at the highest levels here within Interior and

across the Federal government does not change.”

The Office of Insular Affairs, the Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program, and the Office of International Affairs will continue to be led respectively by Nikolao Pula, Liza Johnson, and Karen Senhadji. All three will now report to the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

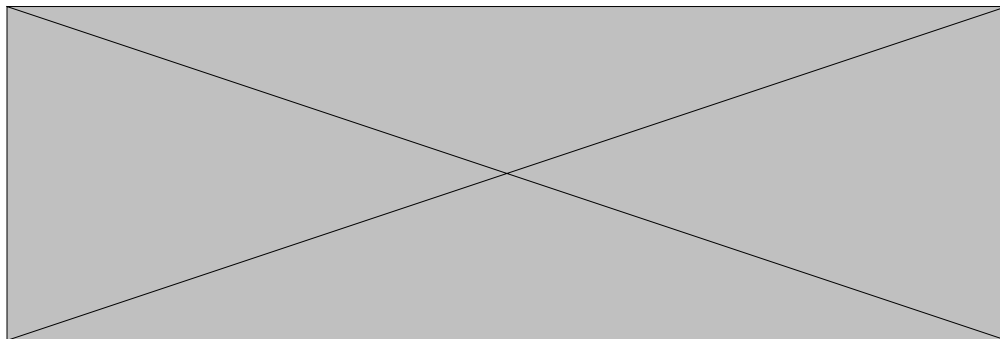
###



To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Mac Zimmerman
Sent: 2018-02-06T11:14:58-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: RE: Secretary Zinke Announces Expanded Role for Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas to Include Ocean Activities and International Affairs Part of Reorganization to Improve Missions and Efficiency
Received: 2018-02-06T11:15:33-05:00

Great stuff.

From: Funes, Jason [mailto:jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2018 11:12 AM
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Announces Expanded Role for Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas to Include Ocean Activities and International Affairs Part of Reorganization to Improve Missions and Efficiency



Date: February 5, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Announces Expanded Role for Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas to Include Ocean Activities and International Affairs

Part of Reorganization to Improve Missions and Efficiency

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced today the signing of [Secretarial Order #3361](#), expanding the functions and responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech to include the Office of International Affairs and the Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program (Oceans Program) currently under the Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget. The new expanded portfolio will now be called the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

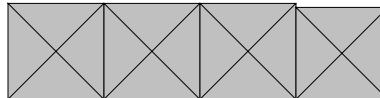
“This realignment is part of the Department’s overall efforts to reorganize for the next 100 years and improve mission achievement,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “By elevating the profiles of

all three of these components within Interior, we aim to renew and strengthen U.S. strategic interests, strengthen relationships and policies for U.S. oceans, Great Lakes and coastal communities, and enhance collaboration globally on behalf of the American people.”

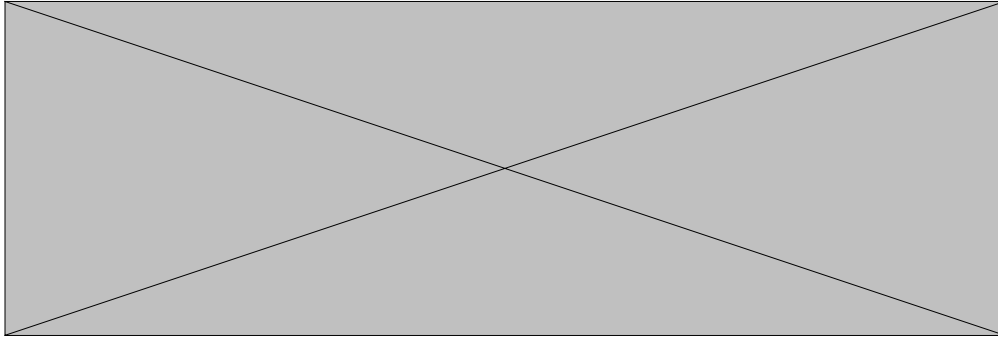
“I look forward to continuing my work on Insular Areas issues and incorporating Oceans and International issues all at the Secretarial level,” **said Assistant Secretary Domenech.** “My work to highlight their importance and critical priorities at the highest levels here within Interior and across the Federal government does not change.”

The Office of Insular Affairs, the Ocean, Great Lakes, and Coastal Program, and the Office of International Affairs will continue to be led respectively by Nikolao Pula, Liza Johnson, and Karen Senhadji. All three will now report to the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-13T11:32:52-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: President's \$11.7 Billion Proposed FY 2019 Budget for Interior Includes Legislation to Strengthen Infrastructure and Address Deferred Maintenance
Received: 2018-02-13T11:33:36-05:00



Date: February 12, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

President's \$11.7 Billion Proposed FY 2019 Budget for Interior Includes Legislation to Strengthen Infrastructure and Address Deferred Maintenance

Budget also focuses on economic growth, responsible energy development and reorganizing for the next 100 years

WASHINGTON President Donald Trump today proposed an \$11.7 billion Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 budget for the Department of the Interior that includes a legislative proposal to establish the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund. The Fund will provide up to \$18 billion to address Interior's deferred maintenance backlog in national parks, national wildlife refuges and Bureau of Indian Education schools through funding from energy leasing revenues. The legislation complements the President's national infrastructure investment proposal and recognizes the importance of a long-term investment in America's treasures.

Along with strengthening the nation's infrastructure, the proposed budget prioritizes economic growth and expanded public access for outdoor recreation. The budget enables Interior to carry out its core mission of responsible multiple-use of public lands in a way that both conserves America's iconic landscapes and supports responsible resource development. To download highlights of the DOI FY 2019 budget, click this link: <https://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2019/highlights>

"President Trump is absolutely right to call for a robust infrastructure plan that rebuilds our national parks, refuges, and Indian schools, and I look forward to helping him deliver on that historic mission," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke.** "Our parks and refuges are

being loved to death, but the real heart break is the condition of the schools in Indian Country. We can and must do better for these young scholars. This is not a Republican or Democrat issue, this is an American issue, and the President and I are ready to work with absolutely anyone in Congress who is willing to get the work done."

Zinke continued: "Not all visitors to our parks and public lands have the ability to hike with a 30-pound pack and camp in the wilderness miles away from utilities. Many people see our national parks from scenic overlooks and short guided hikes on paved trails. In order for families with young kids or elderly grandparents to enjoy the parks, we need to rebuild basic infrastructure like roads, trails, lodges, restrooms and visitors centers. Not since the 1950s has a President embarked on such a noble and ambitious mission to rebuild our National Parks."

The Department of the Interior oversees one-fifth of the nation's land and the entire Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The Department is charged with overseeing energy development on federal lands and waters, grazing allotments and timber sales, water conservation and delivery, upholding Tribal trust responsibilities, conservation of wildlife and habitat, and maintaining access for recreation in National Parks and other public lands, among other priorities.

The FY 2019 budget includes the President's continued focus on the following priorities:

American Infrastructure: Investing in Interior's \$300 Billion Asset Portfolio

- Legislative Proposal to launch new Public Lands Infrastructure Fund
 - Up to \$18 billion to help pay for repairs and improvements in America's national parks, national wildlife refuges, and Bureau of Indian Education-funded schools
 - Fund supported by 50% of increased Federal energy leasing and development activities over FY 2018 Budget projections
- \$805 million to address the \$11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog in our National Parks, which accounts for 69% of Interior's \$16 billion deferred maintenance backlog.
- Invests \$891 million for Bureau of Reclamation water systems and new capital construction
- Proposes \$28 million for Bureau of Indian Affairs' Dam Safety and Maintenance Program
- \$99 million to support U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service consultation requirements to avoid logjams on major infrastructure projects
- \$48 million to prioritize permitting in the Bureau of Land Management for energy transmission and energy related rights-of-way

America First Energy: \$792 million to power America's future

- Onshore: \$233 million to strengthen oil and gas and coal programs by improving the application and permitting processes, and supporting related rights of way
- Offshore: \$348 million includes a \$9 million increase to update the Five-Year OCS Oil and Gas Plan
- Renewables: \$73 million to keep pace with anticipated project interest for renewable energy development

- \$138 million to support effective management of mineral revenue

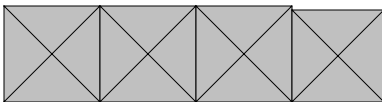
\$4.6 Billion for America's Land: Increasing access, back to the basics on stewardship

- Invests \$2.4 billion in the core operations of the National Park Service
- Addresses adaptive management challenges and provides \$101 million for work on invasive species
- Directs funds to maintain the lands we have, rather than purchasing land we cannot afford
- Includes \$89 million in mandatory funds to support Land and Water Conservation Fund State Grants
- \$473 million to support hunting, fishing, and other wildlife dependent recreation on national wildlife refuges
- \$465 million to support communities neighboring our public lands through Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Additional Legislative Priorities

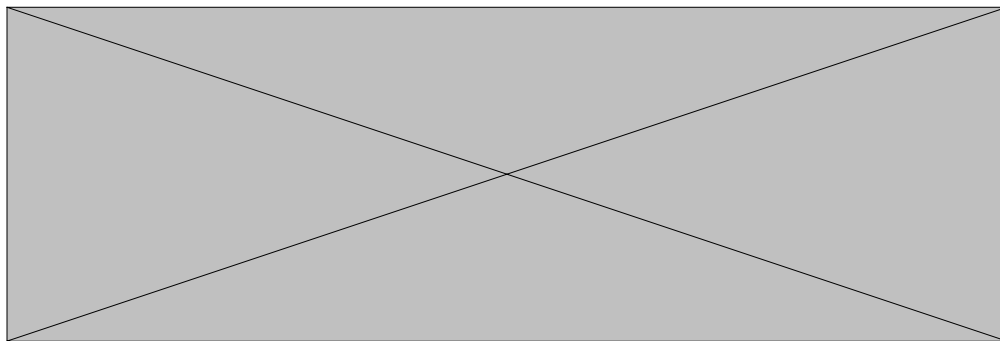
- Proposes Wildland Fire Suppression Disaster Cap Adjustment for Interior and U.S. Forest Service activities
- Proposes to reduce \$230 million in unobligated balances from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act program
- Proposes legislation to better facilitate title transfer of Reclamation facilities
- Budget assumes permanent reauthorization of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act
- Proposed to repeal geothermal revenue sharing payments to counties and return to traditional 50/50 Federal-state sharing
- Proposes to permanently reauthorize the Recreation Fee Program
- Reviews options to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-15T14:38:16-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: SECRETARY ZINKE PRIORITIZES CONSERVATION & BIG GAME MIGRATION CORRIDORS
Received: 2018-02-15T14:38:54-05:00

In case you missed this, this is a YUGE step towards habitat restoration and conservation issues...



Date: February 9, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

SECRETARY ZINKE PRIORITIZES CONSERVATION & BIG GAME MIGRATION CORRIDORS

SIGNS ORDER DIRECTING MORE RESOURCES TOWARD HABITAT RESTORATION, CONSERVATION, COLLABORATION AND RESEARCH

SALT LAKE CITY Today, at the Western Conservation and Hunting Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed [Secretarial Order 3362](#), which will improve habitat quality and western big game winter range and migration corridors for antelope, elk, and mule deer. The order fosters improved collaboration with states and private landowners and facilitates all parties using the best available science to inform development of guidelines that helps ensure that robust big game populations continue to exist.

The order seeks to improve wildlife management and conservation and expand opportunities for big game hunting by improving priority habitats within important and migration corridors across the West. Priority states currently include Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

"We all know that animals go where animals want to go, and more often than not that's dependent upon natural features like watersheds, rather than whether land is owned by the BLM, state, or private landowners. We need to manage appropriately. My goal is healthy herds for American hunters and wildlife watchers, and this order will help establish better migration corridors for some of North America's most iconic big game species like elk, mule deer and antelope," **said Secretary Zinke**. "American hunters are the backbone of big game conservation efforts, and now working with state and private landowners, the Department will leverage its land management and scientific expertise to both study the migration habits of wildlife as well as identify ways to improve the habitat. For example, this can be done by working with ranchers to modify their fences, working with states to collaborate on sage brush restoration, or working with scientists to better understand migration routes."

States are prioritizing migration initiatives to better understand the habits of animals like mule deer, elk, and antelope; however, there is much work the federal government can do to better understand the animals and improve habitat. The migration patterns of these species cross over thousands of miles of all types of land including federal, private, state, and tribal. For example, in southern Utah, mule deer travel up to 110 miles into Arizona from Bryce Canyon National Park into the Arizona strip area. They cross state, private, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service land. These species also cross tribal lands and use highway underpasses and critical public land habitats along that annual journey. The Secretarial Order initiative will help with many aspects of solving the challenges encountered along the pathways of these migratory routes.

"We greatly appreciate Secretary Zinke's commitment to improving the habitat quality of big game migratory corridors and winter range on lands managed by the department's bureaus," **said Mule Deer Foundation President and CEO, Miles Moretti**. "Big game populations have faced increasing challenges during their seasonal migrations and in the crucial winter period. Federal public lands play a critical role in the annual life cycle of mule deer and black-tailed deer and we pledge our wholehearted support and engagement to implement Secretarial Order 3362."

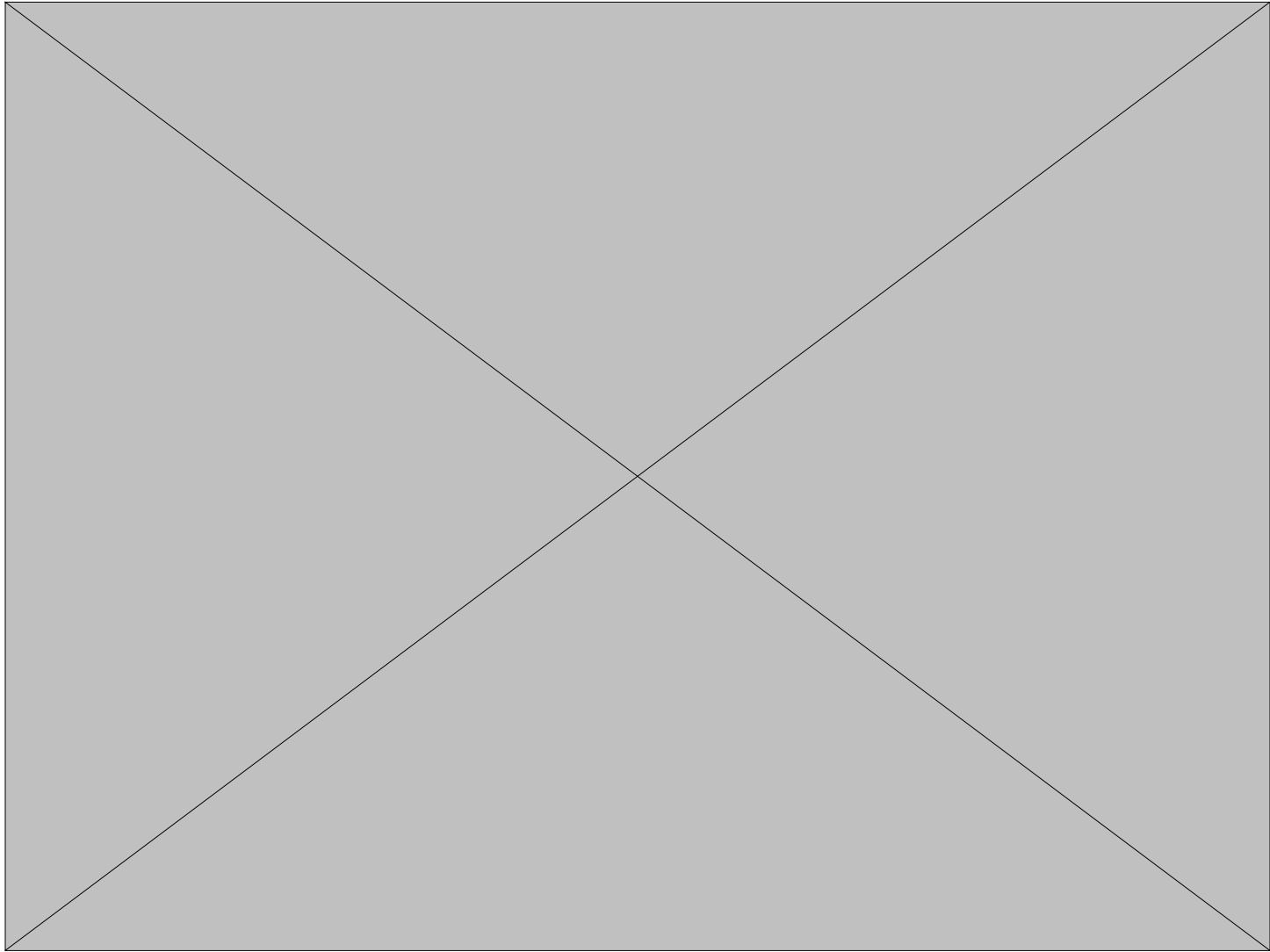
Zinke continued, "Utah is ground zero for this kind of initiative on the state level and we are looking forward to partnering with them and other states in the future. Working together we will strengthen herds and ensure big game hunting is passed down from generation to generation."

"We appreciate Secretary Zinke's recognition of the importance of wildlife migration corridors," **said Mike Styler, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources**. "This aligns with, and significantly bolsters, the Utah Migration Initiative to identify the critical corridors and better focus our successful Watershed Restoration practices that enhance big game."

Earlier in the day, Secretary Zinke was joined by the Mule Deer Foundation and volunteers to capture, tag, collar, and release mule deer for research. The tagging and collaring the deer will allow scientists to gather more data and shed light on the migration habits of the species.

The goal of this effort lies at the heart of our conservation mission, ensuring the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage. In order to do that we must maintain a focus on winter range and migration corridors for elk and other wildlife," **said Blake Henning**,

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation chief conservation officer. “We support stronger collaboration between landowners, agencies, conservation groups like RMEF and all others seeking to enhance habitat for the benefit of our wildlife populations.”



Later in the day, Zinke walked the floor of the Expo and was joined by local resident and youth hunter Gracie for bow and pellet gun demonstrations.

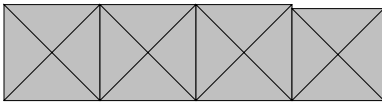
A lifelong sportsman who grew up in Montana, Secretary Zinke has prioritized sportsmen's access and healthy herds during his tenure at the Department. Since being sworn in to office in March 2017, Zinke:

- Reversed an order that would have banned affordable lead ammo and tackle on National Wildlife Refuge lands.
- Expanded hunting and fishing opportunities at 10 national wildlife refuges
- Signed a wide-ranging order to expand sportsmen access on public and private land, improve collaboration between the federal, state and Tribal wildlife management authorities, and create a "one-stop" website for all hunting and fishing opportunities on

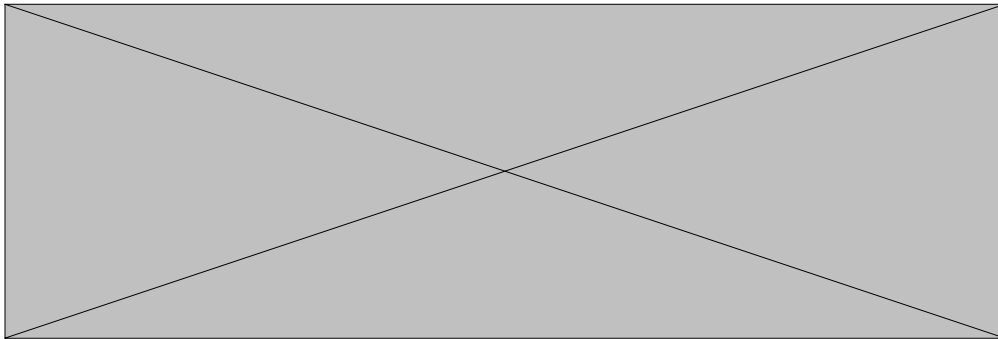
public lands

- Directed bureaus to open hunting and fishing on all national monument lands where legally allowed
- Finalized a land acquisition to make the Sabinoso Wilderness Area accessible to hunters for the first time ever
- Established advisory councils on hunting and shooting sports to help identify policy opportunities
- Highlighted the responsibility sportsmen have to public lands by hosting a public lands cleanup day at BLM land commonly used for target practice. ([see PSA here](#))

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-16T14:06:40-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Seeks Public Comment on Draft List of 35 Minerals Deemed Critical to U.S. National Security and the Economy
Received: 2018-02-16T14:07:49-05:00



Date: February 16, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Seeks Public Comment on Draft List of 35 Minerals Deemed Critical to U.S. National Security and the Economy

List includes minerals key to all sectors of economy including tech and defense

SALT LAKE CITY The U.S. Department of the Interior today announced it is seeking public comment by March 19, 2018, on a draft list of minerals considered critical to the economic and national security of the United States.

President Donald J. Trump directed the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and in consultation with the heads of other relevant agencies, to publish a list of critical minerals in the Federal Register in Executive Order 13817, which was issued on December 20, 2017. Interior's U.S. Geological Survey compiled the list prepared with the Bureau of Land Management's cooperation and is seeking comments including the rationale for potential additions or subtractions.

"The work of the USGS is at the heart of our nation's mission to reduce our vulnerability to disruptions in the supply of critical minerals," **said Dr. Tim Petty, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science.** "Any shortage of these resources constitutes a strategic vulnerability for the security and prosperity of the United States."

The draft list of minerals that DOI published today as critical to the United States includes 35 mineral commodities, such as aluminum used in almost all sectors of the economy; the platinum group metals used for catalytic agents; rare-earth elements used in batteries and

electronics; tin used as protective coatings and alloys for steel; and titanium overwhelmingly used as a white pigment or as a metal alloy. A full list of the 35 mineral commodities follows.

Under the Executive Order, a “critical mineral” is a mineral identified to be a non-fuel mineral or mineral material essential to the economic and national security of the United States, the supply chain of which is vulnerable to disruption, and that serves an essential function in the manufacturing of a product, the absence of which would have significant consequences for the economy or national security.

DATES: To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted before March 19, 2018.

ADDRESSES: You may submit written comments online at:

- <http://www.regulations.gov> by entering “DOI-2018-0001” in the Search bar and clicking “Search,” or
- by mail to Critical Minerals List, MS-1530, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

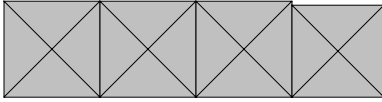
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ryan Nichols, 202-208-7250, ryan_nichols@ios.doi.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact Mr. Nichols during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with this individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours. Normal business hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays.

The full list of critical minerals includes the following click a mineral’s name to find relevant statistics and publications:

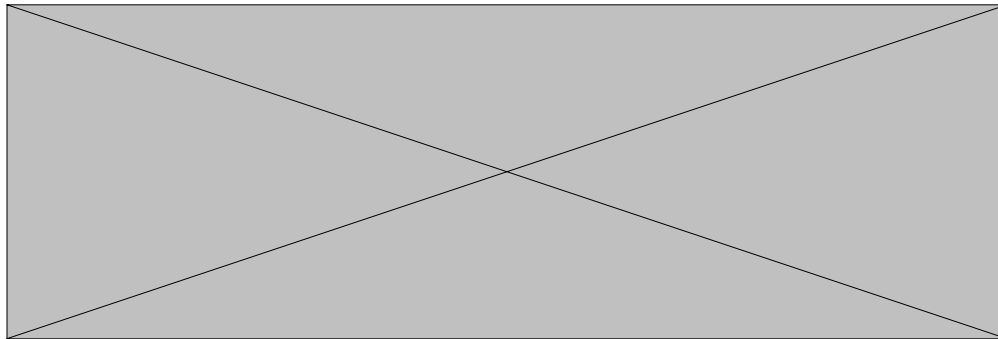
- Aluminum (bauxite), used in almost all sectors of the economy
- Antimony, used in batteries and flame retardants
- Arsenic, used in lumber preservatives, pesticides, and semi-conductors
- Barite, used in cement and petroleum industries
- Beryllium, used as an alloying agent in aerospace and defense industries
- Bismuth, used in medical and atomic research
- Cesium, used in research and development
- Chromium, used primarily in stainless steel and other alloys
- Cobalt, used in rechargeable batteries and superalloys
- Fluorspar, used in the manufacture of aluminum, gasoline, and uranium fuel
- Gallium, used for integrated circuits and optical devices like LEDs
- Germanium, used for fiber optics and night vision applications
- Graphite (natural), used for lubricants, batteries, and fuel cells
- Hafnium, used for nuclear control rods, alloys, and high-temperature ceramics
- Helium, used for MRIs, lifting agent, and research
- Indium, mostly used in LCD screens
- Lithium, used primarily for batteries
- Magnesium, used in furnace linings for manufacturing steel and ceramics
- Manganese, used in steelmaking

- Niobium, used mostly in steel alloys
- Platinum group metals, used for catalytic agents
- Potash, primarily used as a fertilizer
- Rare earth elements group, primarily used in batteries and electronics
- Rhenium, used for lead-free gasoline and superalloys
- Rubidium, used for research and development in electronics
- Scandium, used for alloys and fuel cells
- Strontium, used for pyrotechnics and ceramic magnets
- Tantalum, used in electronic components, mostly capacitors
- Tellurium, used in steelmaking and solar cells
- Tin, used as protective coatings and alloys for steel
- Titanium, overwhelmingly used as a white pigment or metal alloys
- Tungsten, primarily used to make wear-resistant metals
- Uranium, mostly used for nuclear fuel
- Vanadium, primarily used for titanium alloys
- Zirconium, used in the high-temperature ceramics industries

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-16T15:36:02-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Announces Date for Largest Oil and Gas Lease Sale in U.S. History
Received: 2018-02-16T15:36:57-05:00



Date: February 16, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Announces Date for Largest Oil and Gas Lease Sale in U.S. History

Final Notice of Sale Outlines All Available Areas in Federal Waters

WASHINGTON In support of President Donald J. Trump's '[America-First Offshore Energy Strategy](#),' Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt announced that the Department will offer 77.3 million acres offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida for oil and gas exploration and development. The region-wide lease sale, which is the largest in U.S. history, is scheduled for March 21, 2018, and will include all available unleased areas in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. In 2017, offshore leases helped the Department raise a billion dollars more in revenue for the year than was made off energy revenues in 2016.

“Responsibly developing our offshore energy resources is a major pillar of President Trump's American Energy Dominance strategy,” **Deputy Secretary Bernhardt said.** “A strong offshore energy program supports tens of thousands good paying jobs and provides the affordable and reliable energy we need to heat homes, fuel our cars, and power our economy. We have the strongest safety regulations in the world and today's technology is making the responsible development of our resources even safer. We look forward to this important sale and continuing to raise energy revenues, which fund efforts to help safeguard our natural areas, water resources and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans.”

Lease Sale 250, scheduled to be livestreamed from New Orleans, will be the second offshore sale under the National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022. It will include about 14,776 unleased blocks, located from three to 231 miles offshore, in the Gulf's Western, Central and Eastern planning areas in water depths ranging from nine to

more than 11,115 feet (three to 3,400 meters). Excluded from the lease sale are blocks subject to the Congressional moratorium established by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap; and whole blocks and partial blocks within the current boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

“American energy production can be competitive, while remaining safe and environmentally sound,” **said Vincent DeVito, Counselor for Energy Policy at Interior.** “People need jobs, the Gulf Coast states need revenue, and Americans do not want to be dependent on foreign oil.”

Money received from OCS leases (including high bids, rental payments and royalty payments) are directed to the U.S. Treasury, Gulf Coast states, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Historic Preservation Fund.

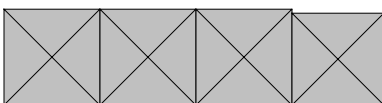
The lease sale terms include stipulations to protect biologically sensitive resources, mitigate potential adverse effects on protected species, and avoid potential conflicts associated with oil and gas development in the region. Additionally, BOEM has included appropriate fiscal terms that take into account market conditions and ensure taxpayers receive a fair return for use of the OCS. These terms include a 12.5% royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters of water depth, and a royalty rate of 18.75% for all other leases issued pursuant to the sale, in recognition of current hydrocarbon price conditions and the marginal nature of remaining Gulf of Mexico shallow water resources.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) estimates that the OCS contains about 90 billion barrels of undiscovered technically recoverable oil and 327 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered technically recoverable gas. The Gulf of Mexico OCS, covering about 160 million acres, has technically recoverable resources of over 48 billion barrels of oil and 141 trillion cubic feet of gas.

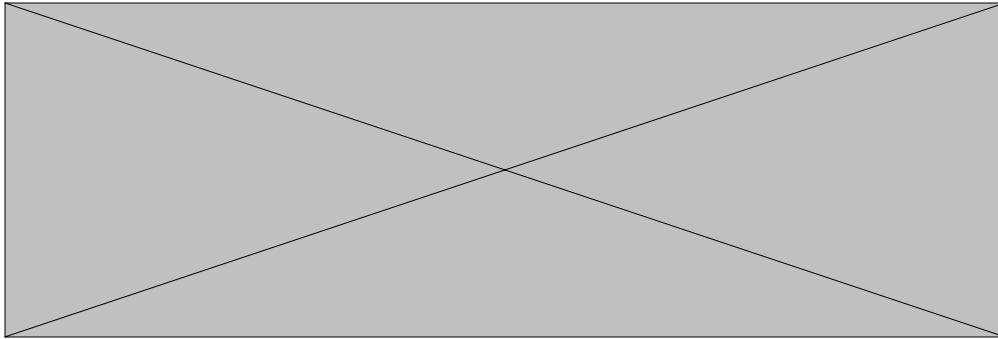
All terms and conditions for Gulf of Mexico Region-wide Sale 250 are detailed in the Final Notice of Sale (FNOS) information package, which is available at: <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-250/>. Copies of the FNOS maps can be requested from the Gulf of Mexico Region’s Public Information Unit at 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70123, or at 800-200-GULF (4853).

The Notice of Availability of the FNOS will be available February 16, 2018 for inspection in the Federal Register at: <http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/public-inspection/index.html> and will be published in the Federal Register on February 16, 2018.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-21T14:30:22-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Announces 2017 Drone Mission Report
Received: 2018-02-21T14:31:14-05:00



Date: February 21, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov
genevieve_giaccardo@ios.doi.gov

Interior Announces 2017 Drone Mission Report

Drone Fleet Supports Modern Approach to Managing Wildfire and Natural Resources on Public Lands

BOISE, Idaho With a fleet of 312 unmanned aircraft, the Department of the Interior's (DOI) [Office of Aviation Services](#) flew nearly 5,000 missions in 2017 to support everything from fighting wildfires to monitoring dams and spillways and mapping wildlife. The accomplishments of its unmanned aerial systems (UAS), or drone program, can be found in a [report](#) announced today by DOI that summarizes flights made by more than 200 certified pilots in 32 states nationwide.

[Drone flights to support natural resource management](#) across DOI, including support to firefighters suppressing wildfires, increased 82 percent from 2016 to 2017. The report breaks down the flights for more than 1,000 projects by agency, geographic area, and missions for wildfire and non-wildfire purposes.

“Interior is committed to preventing the spread of catastrophic wildfires through smarter and more aggressive practices and tactics,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “I had the opportunity to join our wildfire professionals last year and was able to test some of the technology that is now being used. After seeing the capabilities, I know it will continue to make a big difference in firefighting. The UAS program is a perfect example of leveraging technology to fight fires in safer and more efficient ways to ensure we are protecting the men and women on the fire line, members of the public, and local communities. Coupled with more aggressive fuels management, this technology will help prevent and control catastrophic wildfires.”

This past fire season, DOI conducted 707 drone missions on 71 individual wildfires. Drones

were used by firefighters to gain a tactical advantage on wildfires by allowing them to improve their surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. The data and information gathered during these flights was used to support strategic planning for fighting wildfires. These advancements support the safety of our firefighters and the public through the detection of hotspots, improved mapping, and advanced monitoring of wildfires.

“The Department of the Interior has worked hard to build a UAS program that is a leader in non-Department of Defense applications,” **said Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Safety, Resource Protection, and Emergency Services Harry Humbert.** “This technology opens limitless possibilities for resource managers. The Department is proud of the collaboration that uses technology to support wildland fire and natural resource management more safely and more efficiently than ever before.”

The program started flying missions in 2010 with 208 flights. The aircraft are fitted with video cameras, infrared heat sensors, and other equipment that instantly deliver high resolution images. The DOI unmanned fleet includes 3DR Solo Quadcopters and Pulse Vapor 55TM Helicopters. The newest addition, a Hybrid VTOL Fixed-Wing, joins the fleet in early 2018.

Over the past seven years, DOI has seen drones accomplish missions faster and cheaper than traditional aviation.

“We’ve helped DOI programs accomplish their goals for an average of one-tenth of the cost in one-seventh the time of traditional means,” **said Jeff Rupert, Acting Director of the Office of Wildland Fire.** “Adding drone support to fire suppression efforts could dramatically reduce the size and cost of wildfires, potentially saving millions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of acres with triple the hours of critical aviation support.”

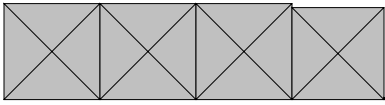
Mark Bathrick, Director of the Office of Aviation Services, sees the increasing use of drones as a chance to improve safety and efficiency of land and resource management. “We are always looking for ways to improve safety,” **said Bathrick.** “Aviation accidents have been the leading cause of fatalities among field biologists. Increasing the use of UAS or drones can increase safety for certain missions. Drones can also instantly deliver high quality data for a fraction of the cost of traditional flights.”

The next stage of the Department’s UAS program starts soon with the testing of a new class of drones to assist in fire suppression and fuels management. Scheduled for field trials later this spring, the new drones could assist firefighters with prescribed fires and with suppressing operations, especially during times when traditional firefighting aircraft can’t fly due to smoky conditions.

Beginning in 2016, the DOI provided wildfire location data to private drone operators to prevent interference with firefighting operations. With system updates in 2017 the public now has access to location data for fires reported by DOI and the U.S. Forest Service within the last eight days in Alaska, Texas, Wyoming, North Dakota, and California via the [GeoPlatform ArcGIS Online](#).

More than 4,200 of the DOI drone flights provided broad support to DOI lands and resources. Drone aircraft fitted with wide ranging sensors helped with inspection of dams and wells, wildlife surveys, monitoring of illegal dumping, and land mapping.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-23T11:31:03-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: PLEASE REVIEW: Follow up Reorg Email
Received: 2018-02-23T11:31:46-05:00
[FAQ Reorg and Boundaries 2 22 18.pdf](#)
[New Draft Unified Boundary Map 2 15 18.pdf](#)
[Unified Regional Boundaries - one-pager.pdf](#)
[Overall Reorg 2-pager.pdf](#)
[DOI Bureaus Current Region Boundaries 2 22 18.pdf](#)

Esteemed Colleagues,
I have a hand selected few folks who specialize in issues like Federal Government Reorganization , issues of running a federal government more efficiently, and reducing regulatory redundancies (bureaucracy).

Attached is more information. If I haven't spoken to you by phone yet, please feel free to call my cell.

Best Wishes,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541

Email from our Director:

In order to provide states and state partners with early, meaningful and substantive input on the development of U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) policies and initiatives, on January 11th and January 12th, DOI held briefing calls with Governors, local governments and stakeholders to discuss and solicit feedback regarding a draft map of DOI unified regional boundaries.

The discussion was focused on establishing unified regional boundaries for the Bureaus within the Department. On these calls, DOI discussed how these proposed boundary changes would reduce administrative redundancy, share resources more effectively, improve coordination among federal, state and local agencies, improve interagency coordination, drive more decisions to be made at the regional level rather than in Washington DC and facilitate joint problem-solving.

Most importantly, as part of a clear and accountable process with states and state partners, DOI asked for feedback from Governors, local governments and stakeholders on the draft unified regional boundary map and concept and the greater process of reorganizing the Department of the Interior. Over the past month, we received a lot of feedback from Governors and many state and local partners.

After receiving input from Governors, local government and stakeholders, DOI has revised the draft unified regional boundary map and it is attached for your review. As stated in previous

communications, the original draft unified regional boundary map followed watersheds and ecosystems as the concept was to organize boundaries with common features and issues. As you will see, the new iteration of this draft map reflects the input and concerns raised regarding splitting states into multiple regions. The new draft unified regional boundary map follows state lines, with few exceptions, but also follows the intent of these boundaries being organized along watersheds and ecosystems.

I have attached the latest draft unified regional boundary map, a map of the current DOI Bureau regional boundaries, a one page document outlining the need for unified boundaries, a two page outline of the goals or reorganization and next steps, and an updated FAQ. Hopefully these resources will answer some of the questions you may have regarding the unified regional boundary concept and the greater reorganization effort.

I cannot express this clearly enough. The U.S. Department of Interior values your input and feedback as we continue with this process. Please continue to send us ideas, thoughts, and concerns. Also, if you would like to set up a conference call or meeting to discuss in further detail, I am happy to help facilitate.

--

Todd M. Wynn

Director of the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

Desk: (202) 208 6649

Cell: (202) 897-7269

NOTE: Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.

DOI: Planning for the Next 100 Years

Objectives:

Address President's Executive Order 13781 on Reorganization

- Reduce administrative redundancy and jurisdictional and organizational barriers to citizen service
- Share resources more effectively
- Devote a greater percentage of our budget to the field
- Improve coordination among federal, state and local agencies
- Facilitate joint problem-solving and effective decision-making
- Make more decisions at the region, fewer in Washington DC
- Better stewardship
- Increasing responsibility, resources, personnel and authority in the field

Current DOI Operations:

DOI touches more people, in more ways, than any other organization in the Executive Branch

- 2,400 operating locations
- 70,000 employees
 - 16% of DOI employees are retirement eligible today
 - 40% of DOI employees are retirement eligible in 5 years
- 610,000 volunteers

Organizational Challenges:

- Coordination challenges across agency jurisdictions
- Coordination challenges across departments
 - FWS Trout
 - NMFS Salmon
- Overlapping organizational structures
- Unnecessary bureaucracy in DC and Denver
- Heavy visitor use
 - 500 Million DOI Visitors
 - 320 Million NPS site visitors

Common Regions:

Why?

- Focuses regional managers on a shared geography
- Improves coordination and communication
- Increases efficiency
- Lowers costs
- Leverages available expertise across bureaus

- Promotes teamwork
- Facilitates local multi-agency partnerships
- Better stewardship
- Increases authority, resources, and staff to the field
- Focuses on local and regional issues and infrastructure improvements

What this would accomplish:

- Improve federal land and water management
- Common regions to facilitate mission delivery
- One-stop services for public
- Enhanced partnerships among federal, state, tribal and local agencies
- Reduce conflict across jurisdictional boundaries
- Demonstrate the courage of Roosevelt to organize for a better public lands future

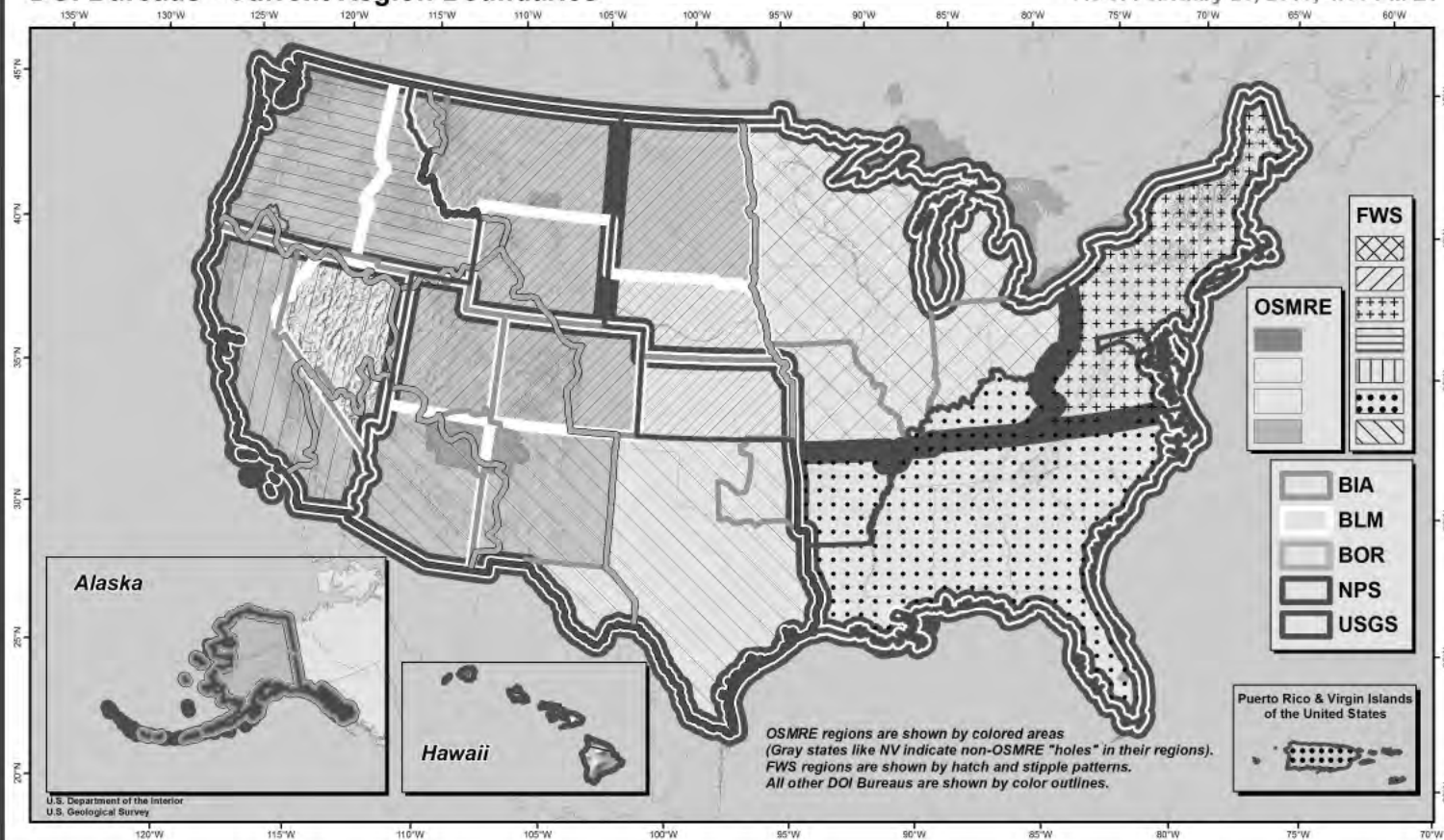
Next Steps:

- We are consulting with Congress, tribes, and state and local partners and other stakeholders on launching the unified regions in FY18
- Continuing to consult with employees
- Seeking employee help to capture the benefits of this approach and avoid pitfalls



DOI Bureaus - Current Region Boundaries

As of February 20, 2018; 4:30 PM ET



Frequently Asked Questions about the DOI Reorganization

Updated as of 2-20-2018

Questions related to common regions

1. Why is Interior changing long standing regional boundaries?

A. We want to provide better management on a geographic basis to include critical components such as wildlife corridors, watersheds, and trail systems. The USGS has provided draft unified regional boundaries based on watersheds as a starting point. By having unified regional boundaries based on primarily on natural features like ecosystems and watersheds we can improve interagency coordination and citizen service, since all of our executives within a given region will have a shared frame of geographic reference.

Our objectives are to:

Reduce administrative redundancy and jurisdictional and organizational barriers to citizen service

Share resources more effectively

Devote a greater percentage of our budget to the field

Improve coordination among federal, state and local agencies

Facilitate joint problem-solving and effective decision-making

Make more decisions at the regional level, fewer in Washington DC

Increase responsibility, resources, personnel and authority in the field

2. Will all bureaus be affected by the new boundaries?

A. Generally, yes, but there are exceptions. Since Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) are focused on activity in the marine environment, they will be the least affected. The US Geological Survey has research laboratories located in particular parts of the country, but they provide nationwide services because of specialized expertise and technology. We will consult with Indian tribes about the extent to which the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Indian Education should be part of the unified regions.

3. When will the new boundaries take effect?

A. We expect the boundaries for the thirteen new unified regions will take effect in the second half of FY 2018.

4. Will there be a pilot of the new unified region concept? If so, where, when, and what will be its scope?

A. The current idea is to launch the concept in Alaska first, since it is a large geographic area, most bureaus are active there, all existing regional offices are already in the same city, and there is only one state government with which to interact.

5. When is the unified region concept going to begin?

Frequently Asked Questions about the DOI Reorganization

Updated as of 2-20-2018

A. FY 2018, after we finish discussions with Congress, Governors, state and local elected leaders, tribes, and external stakeholders on the new regional boundaries.

6. When will the unified regions be fully implemented?

A. It will take several years, because there are a lot of details that will need to be worked out over time.

7. Will DOI break existing leases for office space?

A. Generally not, since we want to avoid any extra financial costs that may be associated with breaking existing leases.

8. When will the new regional hub cities be identified?

A. Perhaps as soon as the end of FY 2018, or more likely in FY 2019.

9. Has DOI spoken to General Services Administration (GSA) about what the new regional hub cities will be?

A. We have had a few very preliminary discussions, simply to get an idea about the range of available space costs and space availability in a few western cities. We don't plan any moves in FY 18.

10. Who will be in charge of each unified region?

A. There will be an Interior Regional Director who will have lead responsibility for each unified region.

11. What will be the scope of responsibilities for each Interior Regional Director?

A. The responsibilities will be to coordinate a specified set of mission and administrative functions that are common to more than one bureau within the region. While some functions such as NEPA compliance, permitting, and recreation management may be within the purview of all of the Interior Regional Directors nationwide, many responsibilities will likely vary from region to region, as a function of the work of the bureaus within a given region.

12. Will the Interior Regional Director control all decisions of all bureaus in the unified region?

A. No, only matters involving more than one bureau, as established on a region-by-region basis.

12A. Will the Interior Regional Director just be another layer of bureaucracy?

A. No, our intention is to short-circuit much of the traditional Washington DC-based bureaucracy, by giving the Interior Regional Director direct access to the Deputy Secretary. In addition, the Interior Regional Director will only be involved when a matter involves more than one bureau.

13. Will the unified regions lead to closing of any national parks, national wildlife refuges, national fish hatcheries, or BIA agency offices?

A. No. There will be little to no impact on these types of local offices that are tied to specific natural or cultural resources or Indian tribes.

Frequently Asked Questions about the DOI Reorganization

Updated as of 2-20-2018

14. How will the new DOI unified regional boundaries affect other agencies like USFS, NMFS, EPA, and the Army Corps of Engineers?

A. We will invite other agencies to co-locate with us or designate liaison officers to each of our unified regions.

15. What will be the role of bureau directors and assistant secretaries after the reorganization?

A. Bureau directors and assistant secretaries will continue to have authority over national policy, budget, personnel, training, uniforms, workforce planning and related functions, as well as line authority over mission areas that are unique to particular bureaus.

16. How will the new regional boundaries affect relationships with States and Counties?

A. We expect these relationships will be improved since more decisions will be made at the regional level and not elevated to Washington DC for resolution.

17. How will the new regional boundaries affect relationships with Indian tribes?

A. We expect these relationships will be improved since more decisions will be made at the regional level and not elevated to Washington DC for resolution.

18. Will there be tribal consultations before the new boundaries are finalized?

A. Yes. We will develop a schedule for conducting formal tribal consultation during FY 2018.

19. Isn't it a problem if a single state is split into more than one unified region?

A. In most cases, a state is only within one of the unified regions. The exceptions are where there are overriding natural resource management benefits from having part of a state in a second region.

20. Will front line supervisors in bureau field offices report to a different boss as a result of the new regional boundaries?

A. No, however the Interior Regional Director for the unified region will be the ultimate regional decision maker for many bureau employees.

21. How will the new regional boundaries affect how employees do their jobs every day in the field?

A. The new boundaries should have very little impact on field operations, except that field level employees can expect more leadership support for taking steps to coordinate more closely with employees in their sister bureaus or other federal agencies that affect our mission in the field. There will also be less second-guessing of local decisions by officials in Washington DC.

22. If the Interior Regional Director is not from my bureau, how can he or she make responsible decisions affecting my program?

A. The Interior Regional Director will consider the advice of each bureau's chain of command within the unified region.

Frequently Asked Questions about the DOI Reorganization

Updated as of 2-20-2018

23. Has the Department established standard operating procedures, MOAs, chains of command or organization charts on how the current structure will work within the new regional map?

A. We plan to work with current bureau regional directors and bureau leadership to determine the most effective and reasonable ways to operationalize the new approach. Any changes will need to be carefully identified and thoughtfully implemented. We expect that the arrangements may vary from region to region.

24. Would regional changes affect any statutory responsibilities?

A. We do not anticipate the need to change any bureau's statutory authorizations as a result of implementing unified regions.

25. Does the Department expect each bureau to be represented in each region? How will this work for bureaus that have limited or no responsibilities in a region (e.g. OSM in the insular region)?

A. We do not expect that every bureau will have a bureau regional director in each new region; we will let existing programmatic responsibilities be the determining factor in that regard.

26. What authority will the new Interior Regional Director in a unified region have with respect to the existing structure? Will the new Interior Regional Director be the responsible officer for construction projects, records, procurement, and other activities conducted by staff currently located in another regional office? How will this work? For example, if a current project or program is in the NPS Midwest Region, managed out of Omaha, and the project now is in the DOI Great Lakes-Ohio region, where would the management happen?

A. In general, activities or functions common to more than one bureau will be under the direction of the Interior Regional Director in that region. For major projects that are already underway it may be prudent to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. As existing office space leases expire, staff associated with a regional office function will gradually migrate to the identified regional hub city in each newly designated region. That process may take years to play out, as some leases will not expire for another decade.

27. What if the project, agreement or plan was previously within one region, but is now split between two or more regions?

A. In these situations, the region that is designated the lead region will be the one whose staff and expertise is best positioned to bring the project, agreement, or plan to a successful completion.

28. How will the Department manage existing MOAs and MOUs with other agencies at existing regions?

A. Decisions to transfer the lead responsibility for a MOU or MOA with another agency will be made on a case-by-case basis. Considerations will include whether the agreement is geographic or programmatic in scope, and which of the new unified regions has the personnel or expertise in the best position to effectively implement the agreement.

Frequently Asked Questions about the DOI Reorganization

Updated as of 2-20-2018

29. Considering most DOI bureaus have less than 13 regions, this would increase the number of managers. Would this require hiring more managers?

A. During the first year or so transition period it is more likely that a single executive might have responsibilities in more than one region. Over time, it is likely that the total number of bureau regional directors will increase so that all regions where a bureau has a significant presence have a senior manager located in that region. However, some of the new regional directors might be GS-15s or GS-14s as opposed to SESers, if their bureau's presence in the new region is relatively minor.

30. Do you expect an official in a current regional office to be responsible for more than one region? How would the chain of command work for this?

A. It is possible that during the transition period a single senior executive might have more than one supervisor. However, field offices of bureaus will only report to one individual.

31. Does this initiative require the reassignment of any personnel (e.g., will current Regional Director positions be changed)?

A. Generally no. We will want to make sure that there is eventually one Interior Regional Director in place in each region, and more broadly, that there is at least one SESer in each region. In one or two instances, that may involve the near-term change in duty station of someone now in the SES.

32. Who will serve as Interior Regional Directors for these new regions? Will this affect their position description? If there are multiple virtual bureau Regional Directors within a new Region, to whom will existing staff report?

A. Interior Regional Directors will most probably be career members of the SES. They will have position descriptions created that describe their responsibilities within the new region. Their particular responsibilities and therefore their position description may vary a bit from region to region as a function of the DOI work that is taking place within each region. Bureaus will continue to have bureau Regional Directors and their bureau field level chains of command will continue to report to them. The difference will be for mission areas or administrative functions that are common to more than one bureau within the same unified region, the people in the bureaus working in those mission areas or administrative functions will take direction from the Interior Regional Director. Supervisors in individual bureaus will continue to report to a Regional Director from that bureau. The Regional Directors will report to the Interior Regional Director for certain specified programmatic and administrative activity, and to their bureau director in headquarters on those matters not within the scope of responsibilities of the regional leader.

33. How will the bureau Regional Directors coordinate with counterparts in other bureaus in the same region?

A. Bureau Regional Directors will have their traditional authorities and upward reporting relationships for programs and functions not specified as being within the purview of the Interior Regional Director. For those programs and functions that they share with other bureaus within that region, they can and

Frequently Asked Questions about the DOI Reorganization

Updated as of 2-20-2018

should coordinate with each other, but they will be ultimately responsible to the regional leader within that region.

34. How will the bureau Regional Directors coordinate with other bureau Regional Directors within their same bureau?

A. Bureaus will continue to have routine meeting of headquarters and regional leadership, and coordinate with each other routinely in order to accomplish their missions.

35. How will a bureau deal with stakeholders (including state and tribal governments) that were previously within one region, but now are split between two or more virtual regions?

A. Tribal governments will have one BIA Regional Director and one Interior Regional Director with whom they might interact, depending on the issue. In some cases, a state may find itself in more than one of the new regions. While at first blush that might seem problematic, decades of experience in the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers indicates that the arrangement works.

36. The new regional boundaries map appears to split-up some Indian reservations. How does DOI plan on working with tribes that span two regions?

A. We believe we have made successfully adjusted the new regional boundaries so that Indian reservations, national parks, national wildlife refuges, federal reservoirs, or similar land management unit are in just one of the new regions. If we have somehow failed to accomplish that goal in a particular place, we would like to know about it so we can address the situation.

37. As this is a policy decision affecting tribes, will DOI consult with tribes on this under EO 13175?

A. Yes, DOI plans to consult with tribes before BIA and BIE are incorporated into the new regional management concept and the new regional boundaries. This may mean that BIA and BIE would be involved in the reorganization on a separate, more extended timeline, than the other bureaus.

38. As these regions were designed to address ecosystem-based management, how would this reorganization address tribal needs and help DOI fulfill trust responsibilities?

A. Indian reservations exist in unique geographic areas, and while the topography within large reservations may span more than one ecosystem, a management perspective that is based on natural features and regional control rather than administrative boundaries with primary reporting relationships to Washington DC should result in better decisions for everyone, Indian and non-Indian, living in a geographic area.

39. What administrative simplicity would be achieved by using state-line based boundaries? Do the administrative benefits of using state lines apply equally to all agencies?

Frequently Asked Questions about the DOI Reorganization

Updated as of 2-20-2018

A. The basic idea behind the new regional boundaries was to try to draw them based on ecosystem and physiographic features. Watersheds are well-defined and well-recognized natural features that serve as a reasonable approximation for ecosystems, hence the new regional boundaries closely approximate watershed boundaries. However, Governors, state and local leaders, and external stakeholders are much more accustomed to dealing with state boundaries than watershed boundaries, so for convenience the new regional watershed-based boundaries are often adjusted to line up with the nearest state boundaries.

General Reorganization Questions

40. Will the broader DOI reorganization happen all at once?

A. No, it will be phased out over several years so there is ample time for planning, feedback from Governors, Congress, and other state and local partners, and thoughtful implementation.

41. Will employees be forced to change their official duty stations?

A. No. Our preference is to gradually phase in any necessary geographic reassignment of personnel to minimize disruption to the current workforce. People most likely to be affected will be those in agency headquarters offices in the Washington DC metropolitan area. People working in field offices are the least likely to be affected.

42. Will people lose their jobs due to the reorganization?

A. Our desire is for no one to lose their job as a result of the reorganization. Some fraction of the small number of people who are given new assignments in a different geographic area may choose to voluntarily leave Interior instead.

43. Will DOI run a Reduction In Force (RIF) to accomplish the reorganization?

A. We have absolutely no plans to run a RIF.

44. Will there be early outs and buyouts to facilitate the reorganization?

A. To the extent OMB and OPM authorize us to use early outs and buyouts we may consider doing so.

45. Will people be required to move to a different city or state as part of the reorganization?

A. Some people will eventually be asked to move.

46. Will bureau headquarters functions be moved as a result of the reorganization?

A. The FY19 President's budget proposes to move a small number of headquarters positions in BLM and FWS Westward to an as yet unidentified location in order to gradually establish western headquarters for those agencies. In addition, a few more headquarters positions in the Bureau of Reclamation, whose headquarters is largely already in the Denver metropolitan area, will be moved to that city.

47. Will everyone in the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) headquarters be required to move out West?

Frequently Asked Questions about the DOI Reorganization

Updated as of 2-20-2018

A. No, although over a period of years we expect to move the majority of FWS headquarters functions out West. In FY 2019, perhaps about 50 people in FWS headquarters would move West.

48. Will everyone in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) headquarters be required to move out West?

A. No, although over a period of years we expect to move the majority of BLM headquarters functions out West. In FY 2019, perhaps about 50 people in BLM headquarters would move West.

49. How many people in BLM will stay in the Washington DC headquarters, and in what functional areas?

A. We plan on consulting with BLM about what makes sense, but generally speaking, people working in functions like budget, Congressional relations, and external relations will be among those not moving West.

50. How many people in FWS will stay in the Washington DC headquarters, and in what functional areas?

A. We plan on consulting with FWS about what makes sense, but generally speaking, people working in functions like budget, Congressional relations, and external relations will be among those not moving West.

51. How much money is going to be spent on the reorganization in FY 2018?

A. In FY 2018 we do not plan to spend significant amounts of money on the reorganization. Instead, we will start off by operating virtual common regions.

53. How much money is in the President's budget for Interior to be spent on the reorganization in FY 2019?

A. The President's Budget for FY 2019 includes \$17.5 million for the reorganization. Of this amount, \$5M is associated with moving part of the BLM headquarters West, another \$5M with moving part of the FWS headquarters West, \$2.5M with consolidated some staff from multiple bureaus in the same building in Anchorage, Alaska, \$3M with moving more of the Bureau of Reclamation headquarters to the Denver metropolitan area, and the remaining \$2M to potentially relocate a small number of people to unified regional offices.

Department of the Interior | Proposed Draft Unified Regional Boundaries

Background:

- The Trump Administration is exploring organizational efficiency and effectiveness through Executive Order 13781, which required the submission of reorganization plans to the President.
- DOI submitted reorganization proposals to the Office of Management and Budget in September of 2017.
- An element of the reorganizational proposal contemplates establishing 13 unified regional office boundaries across all DOI bureaus.
- DOI currently has 10 bureaus and 40 distinct regions, each operating with unique regional boundaries.
- This disparate geographic focus inhibits the sharing of resources and discourages a shared frame of geographic reference, resulting in operational and administrative inefficiencies.

Complexity of Managing Public Lands:

The complexity of administering DOI programs has expanded dramatically over time as Congress broadened DOI's statutory duties. As its mission and bureaus grew, so have competing interests and priorities between bureaus and offices. To fulfill DOI's diverse purpose, the Department manages:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| • 530 Million Acres – Surface | • 2,400 operating locations |
| • 700 Million Acres – Subsurface minerals | • 70,000 employees |
| • 1.7 Billion Acres – Outer Continental Shelf | • 610,000 volunteers |
| • 25 million Acre-Feet of water supply | |

Unified Region Objectives:

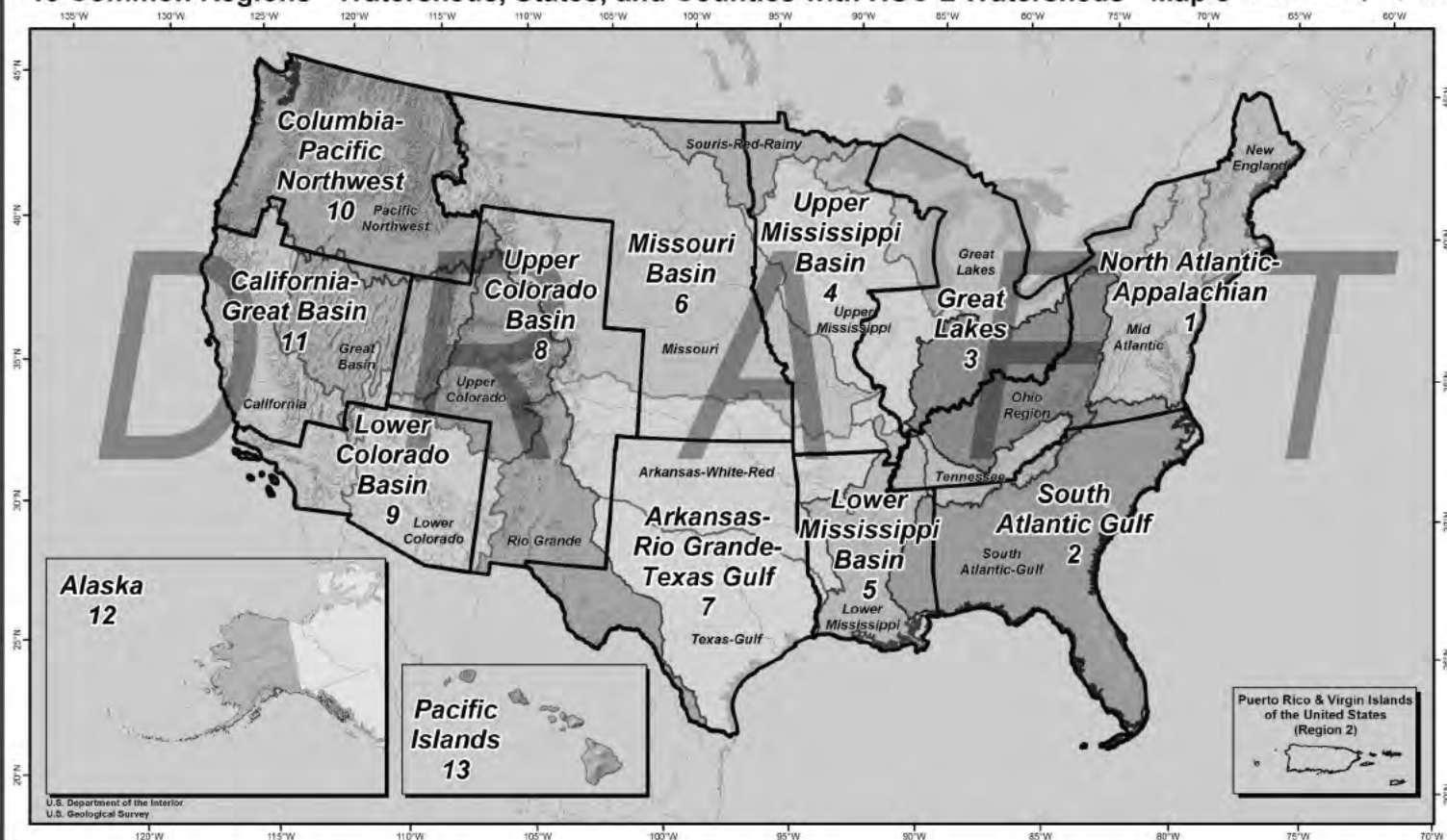
- Reduce administrative redundancy;
- Clarify jurisdictional and organizational barriers to citizen service;
- Facilitate resource sharing, facilitate joint problem solving, and efficient decision-making;
- Devote a greater percentage of our budget to the field;
- Improve coordination among federal, state and local agencies;
- Delegate decision making authority to the regions.

Science-Based Rational for New Unified Regions:

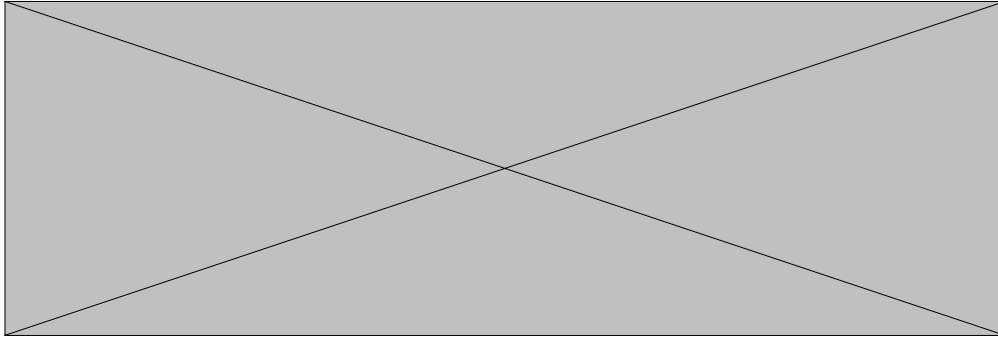
- The proposed common region boundaries are primarily based on a science-based approach to promote management efficiencies, and are divided by county lines.
- A science-based approach to the boundaries will enable better management of watersheds, wildlife corridors, and trail systems. Indian reservations, national parks, and other significant DOI land management units that cross watersheds and county lines were kept wholly in same region to promote efficiency.
- We are consulting with DOI's career senior executive staff, Congress, and external stakeholders on the most useful way to draw the final science-based boundaries for the common regions.



13 Common Regions - Watersheds, States, and Counties with HUC-2 Watersheds - Map 5 As of February 15, 2018



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-24T00:03:32-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke announces \$60 million cooperative agreement to promote fishing and boating and \$14 million in Boating Infrastructure Grants
Received: 2018-02-24T00:04:34-05:00



Date: February 23, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke announces \$60 million cooperative agreement to promote fishing and boating and \$14 million in Boating Infrastructure Grants

Funds come from taxes on fishing equipment and boating fuel

WASHINGTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced a \$60 million cooperative agreement with the [Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation](#) (RBFF) to help retain and recruit recreational anglers and boaters of all ages. Zinke is also announcing \$14 million in [Boating Infrastructure Grants](#) (BIG), which support water-related outdoor recreation and tourism by improving facilities for large transient recreational boats across the country.

The Secretary made the announcement prior to attending the “Saluting the Nation’s Governors as Champions of the Great Outdoors” event, which was hosted by The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable and The Great Outdoors Month® Council.

“Outdoor recreation is a key part of our American heritage, and boating and fishing in particular are how many Americans enjoy our public waters,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “The new cooperative agreement with RBFF is going to make sure we are reaching new anglers and boaters from all ages to get out on the water. The BIG grants help ensure that those new recreationists, as well as those who have enjoyed these activities for years, experience improved access to fishing opportunities with safer and more user-friendly recreational boating facilities.”

The five-year, \$12-million-per-year RBFF agreement will allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and RBFF to work together to bolster angler and boater numbers while

engaging outdoor enthusiasts in natural resource stewardship. The USFWS BIG program provides funding through excise and other taxes on certain fishing equipment and boating fuel to support dedicated boat tie-up facilities and associated amenities to help Americans enjoy the nation's waters.

“The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, in partnership with the Secretary of the Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state natural resource agencies, and industry stakeholders has increased fishing participation by nearly 20 percent over the past 10 years,” **said Glenn Hughes, American Sportfishing Association’s (ASA) Vice President, Industry Relations.** “ASA is very pleased that RBFF’s grant was renewed for another five years, ensuring that there are a many programs and campaigns to recruit, retain and reactivate anglers.”

“The role of RBFF and the work they do helping Americans get on the water, which in turn supports the conservation and restoration of our nation’s aquatic resources, has an incredibly positive and lasting impact on the recreational boating and fishing industries,” **said Thom Dammrich, President of the National Marine Manufacturers Association.** “We applaud the Department of the Interior for recognizing RBFF’s significant contribution to outdoor recreation, and we look forward to continuing to support their efforts on behalf of the 142 million Americans who go boating each year.”

BIG Program

Nearly \$10 million will be awarded competitively for 10 projects in seven states under the BIG Tier II subprogram. The Service will also release \$4 million to fund 33 projects in 23 states, commonwealths and territories under the BIG Tier I subprogram. States and their partners will provide more than \$16 million in non-federal matching funds toward these projects. These grants are awarded on an annual basis. A full list of projects and funding can be found [here](#).

Funding for the BIG program comes from the [Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund](#). Since its inception in 2000, the BIG program has awarded \$194 million to projects for large transient recreational boats, including the construction of more than 5,000 berths for boaters across most states and U.S. territories.

BIG funds support a wide variety of infrastructure features that add to the safety and enjoyment of America’s waters. These features include restrooms, bulkheads, day docks, dinghy docks, transient slips, mooring buoys, floating docks and fixed piers, dockside water supplies, marine fueling stations, and navigational aids such as channel markers.

RBFF Agreement

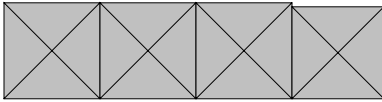
Like the BIG program, this agreement is funded through the Sport Fishing and Boating Trust Fund. In FY 2017, this trust fund provided \$349.4 million in sport fish restoration funds to states, insular areas and the District of Columbia to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, their habitats, sport fishing and recreational boating opportunities.

RBFF was selected as the grant recipient due to its extensive experience and proven success in marketing, outreach and education to increase angling and boating in the United States. Since its inception in 1998, RBFF has spearheaded innovative national outreach and education programs

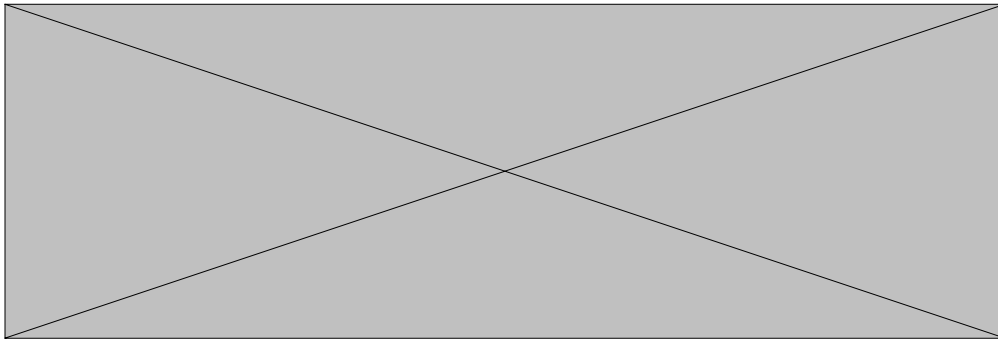
to promote fishing and boating and to educate the public on its conservation benefits.

RBFF's work has had impact on many levels. For example, RBFF launched its 60 in 60 campaign in 2016, which seeks to reach 60 million anglers in 60 months. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which represents all 50 states, several federal agencies, and industry, has embraced this campaign and is working with RBFF to reach this ambitious goal. In addition, First Catch Centers are being piloted to bring angling skills to new participants. Several of these will be on Department of the Interior lands in Pennsylvania and Texas (including at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, Laguna Atacosa National Wildlife Refuge, and Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery).

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-24T14:51:00-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Provides More Than \$300 Million in Conservation Funding for States & Tribes to Reclaim & Repurpose Abandoned Coal Mines
Received: 2018-02-24T14:51:43-05:00



Date: February 24, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Provides More Than \$300 Million in Conservation Funding for States & Tribes to Reclaim & Repurpose Abandoned Coal Mines

WASHINGTON The Department of the Interior's [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement](#) (OSMRE) today announced the availability of the Fiscal Year 2018 [Abandoned Mine Land \(AML\) Reclamation grants](#), which will provide \$300.7 million to states and tribes to reclaim abandoned coal mines.

“Restoring the usability of abandoned mine lands is an example of the Department of the Interior’s multiple-use mission of conservation in action. Interior will continue helping states and tribes responsibly develop America’s energy resources and address legacy problems related to 200 years of mining,” **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. “AML grants keep Americans working and making a difference in their communities. This money will be used to fix highwalls, stabilize land above underground mines, and repair impaired waters, among other things. AML reclamation makes life better in our Nation’s coal communities.”

Approximately \$120 million of the increase from FY 2017 is the result of a phase-in period for states and tribes to receive certified in lieu funds that were withheld under the [Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act](#) (SMCRA) between FY 2009 and FY 2011.

Those states and tribes that have certified that they have completed their abandoned mine land

reclamation obligations will receive \$61 million dollars in FY 2018 and FY 2019, in addition to the certified in lieu funds those states and tribes otherwise receive each year from the U.S. Treasury. Uncertified states will also receive an increase of the same amount in those years. A small portion of the increase in AML funding is attributed to an upturn in U.S. coal production. The total amount available for distribution was reduced by the mandated sequestration amount of 6.6 percent that was applied across the board.

OSMRE provides AML grants to the 28 coal-producing states and tribes according to a congressionally mandated formula based on their past and current coal production. Each year, after the distribution is announced, eligible states and tribes apply for annual reclamation grants to access money in their allocations. After OSMRE has evaluated and verified the requests, the bureau will make the award amounts available.

Under the AML program, OSMRE has distributed more than \$5 billion in grants to states and tribes from the Abandoned Mine Land Fund. Over the past 40 years, the AML program has directly contributed to closing more than 43,000 abandoned underground mine shafts and openings; eliminating nearly 1,000 miles of highwalls; and restoring over 35,000 acres of streams and land.

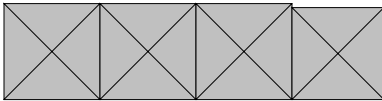
The FY 2018 AML Reclamation funding available to states and tribes is as follows:

State/Tribe	Amount Allocated
Alabama	5,268,273
Alaska	2,802,000
Arkansas	2,802,000
Colorado	3,255,110
Illinois	19,022,872
Indiana	8,113,445
Iowa	2,802,000
Kansas	2,802,000
Kentucky	19,042,090
Louisiana	210,633
Maryland	2,802,000
Mississippi	118,095
Missouri	2,802,000
Montana	7,552,769
New Mexico	2,802,000
North Dakota	2,802,000
Ohio	10,759,651
Oklahoma	2,802,000
Pennsylvania	55,657,898
Tennessee	2,802,000
Texas	2,787,150
Utah	2,802,000

Virginia	5,835,711
West Virginia	36,274,249
Wyoming	91,340,088
Crow Tribe	1,160,946
Hopi Tribe	551,961
Navajo Nation	2,955,996
TOTAL	\$300,728,939

To watch videos featuring award-winning AML projects, please visit [OSMRE's YouTube Channel](#).

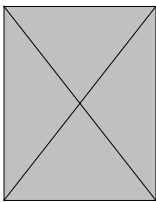
###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-28T14:31:00-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: National Park System Sees More Than 330 Million Recreation Visits
Received: 2018-02-28T14:39:04-05:00
[47%20Visitors%20Watching%20Eclipse_small.jpg](#)

No one loves our National Parks more than Secretary Zinke. You can love them just as much, but not more than our Secretary...

And the following shows how much Americans love their parks!



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of
Communications
[1849 C Street NW](#)
[Washington, DC](#)
[20240](#)

202-208-6843 phone
www.nps.gov

National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 28, 2018

Contact: newsmedia@nps.gov

National Park System Sees More Than 330 Million Recreation Visits

Bureau Releases Top 10 Lists and other Highlights

WASHINGTON – The National Park Service (NPS) today announced 330,882,751 recreation visits in 2017 – almost identical to the record-setting 330,971,689 recreation visits in 2016. While numbers were steady, visitors actually spent more time in parks during their 2017 visits compared to 2016.

Increased attendance at parks, 1.5 billion visits in the last five years, also means aging park facilities are incurring further wear and tear. President Trump has proposed legislation to establish a Public Lands Infrastructure Fund that would help address the \$11.6 billion maintenance backlog in the National Park System. The fund would take new revenue from federal energy leasing and development and provide up to \$18 billion to help pay for repairs and improvements in national parks, national wildlife refuges and Bureau of Indian Education funded schools.

"Our National Parks are being loved to death," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. "As

visitor rates continue at a high level, we must prioritize much-needed deferred maintenance including aging facilities, roads and other critical infrastructure. President Trump's proposal to establish a Public Lands Infrastructure Fund is a step in the right direction. This is not a Republican or Democrat issue, this is an American issue, and the President and I remain ready to work with anyone in Congress who is willing to get the job done.”

National Park System 2017 visitation highlights include:

- More than 1.44 billion recreation hours in 2017, an increase of 19 million hours over 2016
- Most – 385 of 417 parks in the National Park System – count park visitors
- 61 of the 385 reporting parks set new visitation records (about 16 percent of reporting parks)
- 42 parks broke a record they set in 2016
- 3 parks had more than 10 million recreation visits – Blue Ridge Parkway, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- 10 parks had more than 5 million recreation visits
- 81 parks had more than 1 million recreation visits – one more million-visitor park than 2016
- Half of national park visitation occurred in 27 parks
- The total solar eclipse last August brought visitors in record numbers to several parks

Parks that passed notable recreational visit milestones for the first time:

- Grand Canyon National Park 6 million
- Zion National Park 4.5 million
- Glen Canyon National Recreation Area 4 million
- Boston National Historical Park 3 million
- Glacier National Park 3 million
- Bryce Canyon National Park 2.5 million
- Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park 2.5 million
- Big Bend National Park 400,000
- Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve 400,000
- Mississippi National Recreation and River Area 400,000
- Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site 200,000
- Congaree National Park 150,000
- Great Basin National Park 150,000
- Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site 150,000
- Monocacy National Battlefield 100,000
- Waco Mammoth National Monument 100,000
- Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument 75,000
- Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park 75,000
- James A. Garfield National Historic Site 50,000
- National Park of American Samoa 50,000
- Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site 50,000
- Agate Fossil Beds National Monument 30,000
- Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument 30,000
- Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve 30,000

Top 10 Visitation National Park System

Park	Recreation Visits	Deferred Maintenance
	16,093,765	

Blue Ridge Parkway		\$186,619,608
Golden Gate National Recreation Area	14,981,897	\$325,814,011
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	11,388,893	\$64,049,392
Gateway National Recreation Area	9,190,610	\$788,419,471
Lincoln Memorial	7,956,117	\$33,868,238
Lake Mead National Recreation Area	7,882,339	\$205,540,564
George Washington Memorial Parkway	7,562,793	\$233,441,316
Natchez Trace Parkway	6,326,062	\$10,656,651

Grand Canyon National Park	6,254,238	\$329,437,056
Vietnam Veterans Memorial	5,072,589	\$625,250

Top 10 Visitation National Parks

Park	Recreation Visits	Deferred Maintenance
Great Smoky Mountains National Park	11,388,893	\$64,049,392
Grand Canyon National Park	6,254,238	\$329,437,056
Zion National Park	4,504,812	\$65,291,893
Rocky Mountain National Park	4,437,215	\$84,234,245
Yosemite National Park	4,336,890	\$582,670,827

Yellowstone National Park	4,116,524	\$515,808,008
Acadia National Park	3,509,271	\$59,858,099
Olympic National Park	3,401,996	\$120,719,515
Grand Teton National Park	3,317,000	\$178,630,525
Glacier National Park	3,305,512	\$153,838,276

For an in depth look at 2017 visitation figures please visit the [NPS Social Science](#) web site.

Editor's Note: Photo caption: More than 10,000 people descended on Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, for the total solar eclipse on August 20, 2017. Homestead set an all-time visitation record for the day, the month and the year. NPS Photo by Alison Tagert-Barone.

www.nps.gov

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees who care for America's 417 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at <http://www.nps.gov>, on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natlparkservice, and YouTube

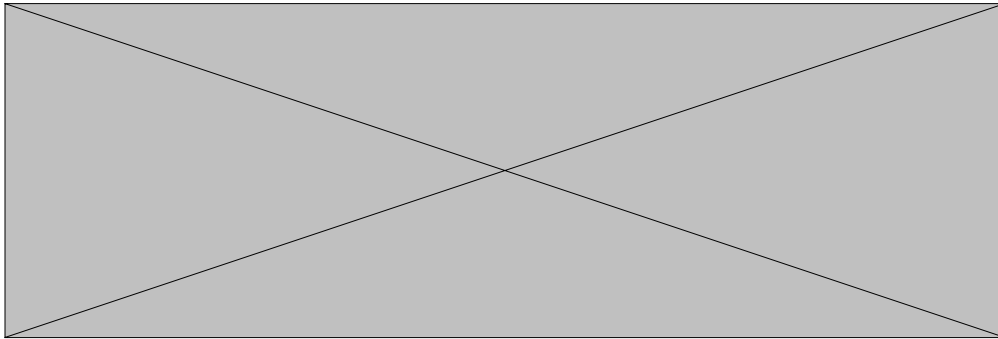
www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-02-28T18:11:49-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Releases Report on Fight Against Invasive Mussels
Received: 2018-02-28T18:20:22-05:00



Date: February 28, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Releases Report on Fight Against Invasive Mussels

Showcases Initiatives to Safeguard Western Waters and Hydroelectric Facilities

WASHINGTON The U.S. Department of the Interior today released a [report](#) highlighting the progress made in the fight against invasive zebra and quagga mussels, which can impair the delivery of water and power, diminish boating and fishing, and devastate ecosystem health.

The report comes after Secretary Ryan Zinke [announced in June](#) a set of initiatives to protect western ecosystems and hydroelectric facilities from the destructive species through continued collaboration with western governors as well as federal, state, and tribal agencies.

“I am pleased to share progress made on honoring those commitments,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “There is more work to do, and Interior is committed to continuing our efforts. With the busy boating season approaching, it is imperative that we are vigilant in taking measures to prevent the spread of invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species.”

In Fiscal Year 2017, Interior spent \$8.6 million to address invasive mussels nationwide. This includes an additional \$1 million for the Bureau of Reclamation to establish watercraft decontamination stations, provide educational materials, and continue monitoring efforts.

Interior is currently working on more than four dozen actions to address invasive mussels including preventing the spread of the species to uninfested waters, such as those in the Columbia River Basin in the Pacific Northwest, and containing and controlling them where they are established, such as in Lake Powell and the Lower Colorado River region.

Some highlights since June include:

- Convening federal, state, tribal, and nongovernmental groups to identify options to strengthen watercraft inspection and decontamination programs at infested waters, such as at Lake Havasu as well as Lake Mead, where the Bureau of Reclamation committed to spending another \$150,000 this year to bolster efforts.
- In the Pacific Northwest, the U.S. Geological Survey, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and Columbia River Basin partners are mobilizing to improve regional coordination of monitoring efforts to ensure that they are strategic and effective.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission are leading planning efforts to expedite Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultations to ensure a quick response if invasive mussels are detected.
- The Bureau of Reclamation launched a prize competition seeking innovation solutions to eradicate invasive mussels from large reservoirs, lakes, and rivers in a cost effective and environmentally sound manner.

This work builds on efforts and effective state-federal-tribal partnerships and initiatives in process for decades. Interior and WGA staff have communicated regularly on this initiative since its inception in the spring of 2017.

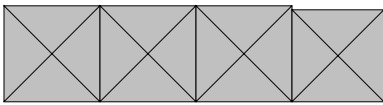
"Western Governors remain committed to the fight against invasive species on Western lands, including the threat that invasive mussels pose to Western waterbodies," said the Western Governors' Association (WGA). "Addressing a threat of this magnitude requires leadership, innovation, and coordination at all levels of government."

The Department requested \$11.9 million in Fiscal Year 2018, including an additional \$3.4 million for the Bureau of Reclamation to expand on these and other efforts to prevent, contain, and control invasive mussels. Approximately \$3.1 million is in the process of being released under the continuing resolution to support federal, state, and tribal activities such as the purchase and operation of watercraft inspection and decontamination stations in the Lower Colorado River basin, development of facility vulnerability assessments to determine risk for critical infrastructure in the Columbia River Basin, and increasing capacity for the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe at Flathead Lake for their Aquatic Invasive Species program.

First introduced to the Great Lakes in the 1980s, zebra and quagga mussels spread outward via recreational watercraft being transported to other regions of the country. Infestations clog power plant, industrial, and public water supply intakes and pipes, dramatically change aquatic ecosystems, and require substantial investments to control. They are among the many invasive species causing economic and ecological and harm to human health across the United States.

To help raise awareness about these and other invasive species, events are planned in Washington, D.C. and across the country this week during National Invasive Species Awareness Week (NISAW). More information about NISAW is available [here](#).

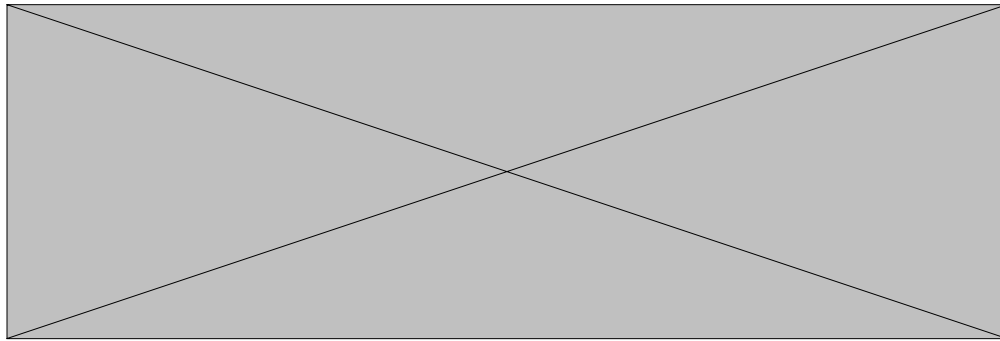
###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-06T16:22:54-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Moves Forward to Improve Safety Offshore
Received: 2018-03-06T16:24:28-05:00
[BSEE Safety Improvement Initiatives.pdf](#)

Attached is more information regarding the 6 BSEE Safety Improvement Initiatives announced below....

Making American Energy Safe and Amazing again...



Date: March 6, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Moves Forward to Improve Safety Offshore

HOUSTON U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke today announced a series of new initiatives to strengthen the federal offshore oil and gas inspection program. Zinke highlighted a risk-based inspection element and an increase in the amount of time allotted for physical inspection of offshore facilities as two of six initiatives that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) will institute before mid-2018. Zinke's announcement at the 2018 CERAWeek conference coincides with the U.S. offshore's highest oil production year on record, totaling 629 million barrels during 2017.

“One of the pillars to responsible energy development is ensuring it's done safely,” **Secretary Zinke told the CERA attendees.** “As part of the Trump administration’s push for safety in energy development, we are working hard to do our job smarter and ensure industry is exploring and producing safely.”

Starting this month, BSEE inspectors are conducting risk-based inspections as part of the bureau’s overall inspection strategy. This specialized inspection protocol uses analysis of continuous trend data to focus on performance issues of critical equipment or operations.

A second initiative will ensure that the inspector work process is more effective, enabling inspectors to spend more time conducting physical inspections while offshore. This effort will

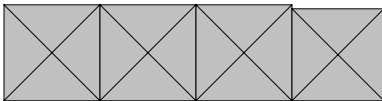
also reduce costs by changing inspector work schedules to match contracted helicopter assets, and decreases safety risks for inspectors by reducing flight time.

Four other initiatives include: increasing BSEE's engagement with industry, identifying the Best Available and Safest Technology requirements for critical offshore equipment, identifying gaps between advancing technologies and regulations, and researching the potential for third-party certification of BSEE's inspection program by the International Standards Organization.

BSEE Director Scott Angelle explained, "I want BSEE's programs and processes to be the best in the world, and I'm not afraid to subject them to scrutiny to determine where improvements are needed."

Since his arrival in 2017, Angelle has called for BSEE to embrace a process of change management. "The six initiatives we are announcing today are an important set of steps that will keep pace with the increased offshore oil gas and production, ensure safety, and protect the environment," **Angelle stated.** "They will also help BSEE become a more efficient agency, something the American taxpayers expect and deserve."

###



BSEE launches first ever risk based inspection program using real time trend data to achieve safety improvements.

- Under the former Administration, BSEE had a start and stop and ultimately aborted risk based program; criticized by two external oversight organizations for not being able to get it across the finish line.
- This month, 40 facilities will undergo a risk based inspection within a two day period. This follows a very successful pilot program by this administration and our new risk based inspection program will serve to augment our current prescriptive based inspection program and will combine to improve safety on the OCS.
- Risk-based inspections allow BSEE Engineers and Inspectors to act quickly on current trends in offshore operations and demanding improved safety performance to the offshore operators' attention opportunities for safety improvement.

Effective April 1, BSEE drastically increases physical inspection time on offshore oil and gas facilities while achieving cost-savings for the taxpayers and reducing safety risks to inspectors.

- BSEE drastically increases the time of offshore physical inspections and gains a cost- savings of contracted helicopter services of \$20 million over four years through revamping of workforce schedules and embracing technology to access records resulting in a safer Outer Continental Shelf achieved in a smarter and less expensive way.

BSEE re-invigorates critical safety reporting system through engagement with industry.

- BSEE inherited a Safe Outer Continental Shelf (SafeOCS) Voluntary reporting program from the last Administration that had 3% participation from industry.
- In the first year under new leadership, participation more than doubled to 8% of all offshore operators. It should be noted these participating operators are responsible for 63% of the oil production from the Outer Continental Shelf.
- BSEE has developed a comprehensive strategy to engage industry leadership with a goal of substantially increasing participation by the end of 2018.

BSEE identifies every critical offshore component subject to Best Available Safe Technology (BAST) regulations.

- BSEE is implementing a system to have critical safety components, subject to BAST definition, identified, audited and published annually with a concurrent review of regulations for compliance with BAST goals.
- Hereto before, the previous Administration has not identified, audited or published therefore creating uncertainty of compliance with BAST goals.

BSEE puts in place infrastructure to continuously identify gaps between advancing technology and regulations.

- In the aftermath of the *Deepwater Horizon* incident, the National Commission determined that gaps existed between risk of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) production and exploration activities and the regulations to mitigate those risks.
- The previous administration failed to stand up an infrastructure whose focus would be to continuously identify the risk of changing OCS activity so as to make certain existing regulations, inspections, and procedures would remain current with said risk. This Administration is changing that!
- Having this allows BSEE to align regulations with new technology.

For the first time ever, BSEE seeks to obtain third-party certification of its inspection program from the world's most distinguished standards organization, the International Standards Organization (ISO)

- BSEE is in the early stages of planning. Hopefully signing contract by summer of 2018 to chart a path forward on obtaining the certification.

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-07T18:06:39-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Partners with Congress on Bipartisan Bill to Fix Our National Parks
Received: 2018-03-07T18:07:55-05:00

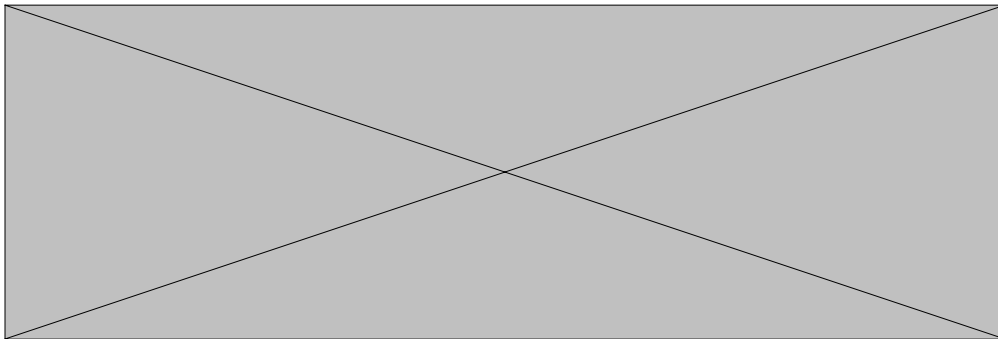
Esteemed Colleagues,

For those at The Latino Coalition today, this is just one part of our DOI portfolio which will create jobs across America...

The National Park Service estimates that its maintenance and repair backlog exceeds \$11.6 billion = **Jobs, Jobs, and Jobs for ALL Americans**

A working America is a great America,

Jason Funes
Special Assistant
Intergovernmental and External Affairs
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Office: (202) 208-5541



Date: March 7, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Partners with Congress on Bipartisan Bill to Fix Our National Parks

*Marks an important component of President Trump's Infrastructure Framework for
Rebuilding America's Infrastructure*

WASHINGTON Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke joined U.S. Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Angus King (I-ME), Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID), Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR) and others to introduce a bipartisan bill to rebuild America's National Parks.

The proposed bill would use up to \$18 billion in revenue derived from energy produced on federal lands and waters to establish a special fund within the Treasury specifically for “National Park Restoration”. The bill follows the blueprint laid out in Secretary Zinke and President Trump's budget proposal, the Public Lands Infrastructure Fund. The Alexander/King bill's cosponsors are: Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Martin Heinrich (D-NM), Steve Daines (R-MT), Cory Gardner (R-CO), and Thom Tillis (R-NC). This bill fulfills one of the priorities laid out in President Trump’s [legislative framework for rebuilding America’s infrastructure](#).

"Infrastructure is an investment, not merely an expense. And every dollar we put in to rebuilding our parks, will help bolster the gateway communities that rely on park visitation for economic vitality. Since the early days of my confirmation, I've been talking with members of the House and Senate about how we can use energy revenue to rebuild and revitalize our parks and communities," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "Infrastructure is also about access for all Americans. Not all visitors to our parks have the ability to hike with a 30-pound pack and camp in the wilderness miles away from utilities. In order for families with young kids , elderly grandparents, or persons with disabilities to enjoy the parks, we need to rebuild basic infrastructure like roads, trails, lodges, restrooms and visitors centers. This bill is the largest investment in National Parks in our nation's history. This is not a republican or democrat issue, this is an American issue, and I think that the bipartisan body of lawmakers who put this bill forward is proof."

“This legislation will help address the over \$11 billion maintenance backlog at our national parks, including the \$215 million backlog of projects in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park,” **Senator Alexander said**. “The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is one of America’s greatest treasures and it has a tremendous economic impact in East Tennessee, attracting nearly twice the visitors of any other national park. Addressing the maintenance backlog will help attract even more visitors and create more jobs for Tennesseans. We must continue to work together to find solutions to the many challenges facing our public lands, and this legislation takes an important step toward doing that.”

“Montanans are blessed to have America’s most beautiful national parks right outside our front doors,” **said Senator Daines**. “These critical economic drivers must be maintained and protected so that our outdoor economy can continue to grow and our parks remain accessible to all Montanans. This bipartisan bill is a commonsense step forward to ensure that the challenges facing our national parks are finally addressed.”

“For more than a century, our national parks have inspired and amazed countless visitors,” **said Senator King**. “Unfortunately, these parks don’t take care of themselves they need maintenance to ensure that future generations can experience the same wonder that so many Americans already have. This bill is a practical step to help clear the existing maintenance backlog, and protect these treasured lands for years to come.”

“As someone who loves public lands and our National Parks, I am thrilled to be standing here today with Secretary Zinke, Senator Alexander, Senator King, and Congressman Schrader to propose a solution to fixing the backlog maintenance,” **said Congressman Mike Simpson**. “Growing up in Yellowstone’s backyard, it is important that we pay it forward to future visitors that deserve the same quality experience as past generations. There are many people who

deserve credit for bringing this issue to the forefront and I look forward to working with them to advance legislation that fixes our Parks.”

“Oregonians have a genuine appreciation for the outdoors and our National Parks and recreation areas,” **said Representative Schrader**. “Our ability to enjoy and appreciate that natural beauty is limited when upkeep on our federal lands isn’t sufficiently funded allowing critical maintenance to fall by the wayside. Not only does that impact our enjoyment of the land, but it poses serious risks to the protection of these areas and hurts our communities that rely on the economic benefit from visitors. Currently, our national parks are in dire need of maintenance with a more than ten billion dollar backlog. Our bill provides an innovative solution by creating the National Park Restoration Fund which will provide mandatory funding from unutilized resources already available to us, to bring that backlog down and ensure our National Park System is well and safely kept for generations to come.”

The National Park Service estimates that its maintenance and repair backlog exceeds \$11.6 billion. In 2017, 330 million people visited the 417 NPS sites across the country. The NPS completed over \$650 million in maintenance and repair work in FY 2017, but aging facilities, high visitation, and resource constraints have kept the maintenance backlog between \$11 billion and \$12 billion since 2010.

Some examples of maintenance projects include:

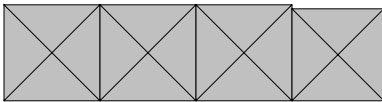
- **Everglades National Park (Florida)** - Showers, campgrounds and lodges that were destroyed during a hurricane more than a decade ago remain broken. Total Everglades maintenance backlog cost, more than \$90 million.
- **Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (Indiana)** - Earlier this month, an observation deck overlooking Lake Michigan crumbled and fell to the ground after years of erosion. Total Indiana Dunes maintenance backlog cost, more than \$26 million.
- **Grand Canyon National Park (Arizona)** - A pipeline, and the only infrastructure to deliver water to the South Rim Village of 19,634 people daily for drinking, cooking and firefighting, breaks several times a year putting the well-being of the community including park lodges, visitor centers, homes, and Grand Canyon hikers at risk. Total Grand Canyon maintenance backlog cost, more than \$329 million.
- **Statue of Liberty National Monument (NY/NJ)** - \$34.45 million is needed to stabilize the Ellis Island Seawall, which protects Ellis Island from erosion of wave action. \$3.77 million is also needed to rehabilitate the Fire-Life-Safety System in the Main Immigration Building, where 2.2 million annual visitors start and end their visit to the island. Total Statue of Liberty National Monument maintenance backlog cost, more than \$166 million.

While National Parks have enjoyed historic visitation over the past few years, many Americans have never been to a NPS site and are unfamiliar with what infrastructure they hold. Here's a quick look at National Park Service infrastructure across the board:

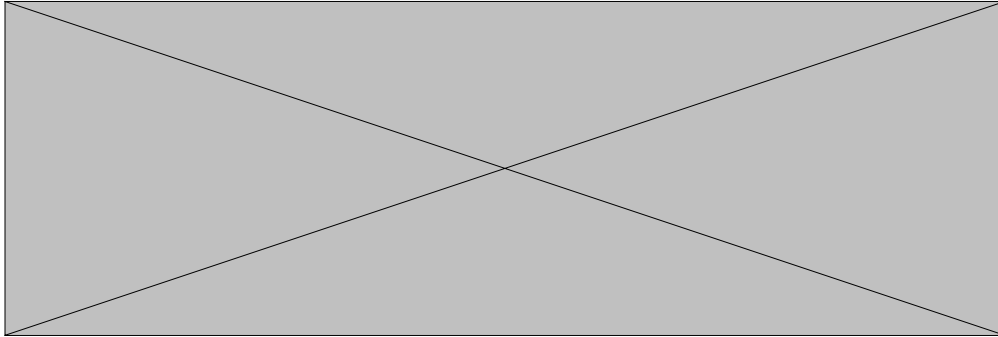
- More than 5,500 miles of paved roads
- More than 1,700 bridges and tunnels

- More than 17,000 miles of trails
- More than 1,300 campgrounds
- More than 24,000 buildings including more than 500 visitor centers, 425 park lodges and hotel buildings, 3,870 housing units and more than 3,700 bathrooms
- More than 1,000 miles of water pipelines
- More than 1,500 water systems
- More than 1,800 wastewater systems
- More than 500 electrical systems

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-12T19:44:50-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior and National Park Service Announce \$12.6 Million in Grants to Preserve African American Civil Rights History
Received: 2018-03-12T19:46:18-04:00



Date: March 12, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior and National Park Service Announce \$12.6 Million in Grants to Preserve African American Civil Rights History

WASHINGTON The U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service today announced \$12.6 million in grants for 51 projects in 24 states that preserve sites and highlight stories related to the African American struggle for equality in the 20th century.

"An integral part of the Interior and National Park Service mission is to help preserve and tell America's story," **said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke**. "These grants will benefit places across the nation that help tell an essential piece of that story through the African American struggle for civil rights and equality."

"Through the work and engagement of public and private partners, these grants will preserve a defining part of our nation's diverse history," **National Park Service Deputy Director Dan Smith said**. "By working with local communities to preserve these historic places and stories, we will help tell a more complete narrative of the African American experience in the pursuit of civil rights."

Projects receiving grants this year include those that will preserve resources like a baseball stadium used by the Negro National League in Paterson, New Jersey; the home of civil rights activist Mary Church Terrell in Washington, D.C.; and the last standing African American officers' club at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Grant projects also include statewide surveys to identify lesser-known civil rights sites, planning exhibits and interpretive trails, and collecting oral histories.

Congress appropriated funding for the African American Civil Rights Grants Program in 2016 through the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF). The HPF uses revenue from federal oil leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, providing assistance for a broad range of preservation projects without expending tax dollars. For the second year of this grants program, Congress increased funding from \$8 million to \$13 million in 2017.

Grant-supported projects include surveys and documentation, interpretation and education, oral histories, architectural services, historic structure reports, planning, and physical preservation.

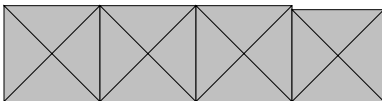
Projects receiving an African American Civil Rights grants include:

State	Project	Grantee	Amount
Alabama	The Restoration of Mount Zion A.M.E. Zion Church Memorial Annex	Mount Zion Center Foundation, Inc.	\$500,000
Alabama	Restoration and Rehabilitation of the Perry County Jailhouse	Perry County Commission	\$500,000
Alabama	Preservation, Repair and Restoration of the Historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church: Phase III	Sixteenth Street Baptist Church	\$500,000
Alabama	Moore Building Master Plan and Phase I Rehabilitation	Alabama Historical Commission	\$365,720
Alabama	Second Phase Continuation in the Preservation of Brown Chapel AME	Historic Brown Chapel AME Church Preservation Society, Inc.	\$300,000
Alabama	21st Century Preservation & the Next Generation of Global Activism: Archives Preservation and Digitization Project	Birmingham Civil Rights Institute	\$44,918
Alabama	Civil Rights Struggle in the Shoals	University of North Alabama	\$45,364
Alabama	Freedom Rides Museum 60th Anniversary Commemoration Exhibit Plans	Alabama Historical Commission	\$50,000
Alabama	Montgomery Alabama Civil Rights Survey/Planning/Research/Documentation	City of Montgomery	\$50,000
Arkansas	Preserving the History of Central High School	Little Rock School District	\$499,218
Arkansas	Dreamland Ballroom Public Access Project	Friends of Dreamland	\$499,668
Arizona	Mountain View Officers' Club Preservation Project	Arizona Department of Parks	\$500,000
District of Columbia	Preserving the Homes of Two Pioneers of the Civil Rights Movement: Mary Church Terrell and Walter E. Washington	Howard University	\$500,000
District of Columbia	Washington DC's 20th Century Civil Rights Movement: Researching and Documenting Historic Sites	DC Preservation League	\$50,000
Florida	Leon and Jewel Collins Museum of African	City of Cocoa	\$50,000

	American History- National Register of Historic Places Nomination		
Georgia	Preservation and Restoration of the Historic West Hunter Street Baptist Church, Phase 2	Ralph David Abernathy III Foundation, Inc.	\$490,000
Georgia	Wheat Street Baptist Church Historic Renovation	Wheat Street Towers	\$500,000
Georgia	Nominating U.S. Civil Rights Sites to the World Heritage List	Georgia State University Research Foundation, Inc.	\$50,000
Iowa	Battling for Equality: Civil Rights in Waterloo	City of Waterloo Historic Preservation Commission	\$37,500
Iowa	Iowa's African American Civil Rights Survey, Multiple Property Documentation and Nomination	State Historical Society of Iowa	\$49,966
Illinois	Preservation of the Stone Temple Baptist Church Building	City of Chicago	\$445,500
Indiana	Hoosier Civil Rights History: Development of a Virtual Museum for Engaging Indiana's Civil Rights Legacy	Ball State University	\$49,989
Kansas	St. Mark's A.M.E. Church Rehabilitation Continuation	St. Mark's A.M.E. Church of Topeka, KS Inc.	\$496,800
Kentucky	Quinn Chapel AME Church Stabilization Project	Louisville Jefferson County Metropolitan Government	\$450,000
Louisiana	Robert "Bob" Hicks House and 1906 Mill House Rehabilitation	The Robert "Bob" Hicks Foundation	\$498,632
Louisiana	Old Galilee Missionary Baptist Church, Physical Preservation	City of Shreveport	\$500,000
Louisiana	The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Educational Pavilion and Central City Civil Rights Corridor Project	Felicity Street Redevelopment, Inc.	\$25,000
Louisiana	Cuttin' Cane Ain't All We Do	West Baton Rouge Museum	\$50,000
Massachusetts	Preserving Clinton AME Zion Church and Interpreting the Life and Legacy of WEB Du Bois	Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area, Inc.	\$388,508
Maryland	Prince George's County Civil Rights Trail	Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc.	\$45,100
Michigan	Pave the Way Project	City of Lansing	\$39,400
Michigan	Every Man's Home is his Castle	City of Detroit	\$500,000
Mississippi	Phase One Rehabilitation of the Isaiah T. Montgomery House, Mound Bayou, MS	Mississippi Heritage Trust	\$284,000
Mississippi	A Case to Save Wechsler School	The Wechsler Foundation	\$500,000
Mississippi	Restoration of Historic Old Phoenix Naval Store	Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain	\$499,534
Mississippi	Marks Mule Train and MLK's Poor People's Campaign Interpretive Trail	Quitman County Mississippi Government	\$50,000
North Carolina	McKissick Soul City Civil Rights Center	County of Warren	\$32,000

New Jersey	Hinchliffe Stadium Façade Rehabilitation Phase 2	City of Paterson	\$500,000
New Jersey	Winning Civil Rights and Political Power	Center for Education and Juvenile Justice	\$50,000
Nevada	The African American Experience in Nevada: An Historic Context	Nevada State Historic Preservation Office	\$46,032
New York	African American Civil Rights in New York State (1900-1976): Multiple Property Documentation Form and Nomination	NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation	\$49,118
South Carolina	Trustee Hall Historic Structure Report and Preservation Plan	Claflin University	\$50,000
South Carolina	Documenting and Sharing the History of Mosquito Beach and its Role in the Civil Rights Movement	Historic Charleston Foundation	\$43,084
South Carolina	Preservation and Repair of Historic Trinity United Methodist Church	Trinity Methodist Church	\$500,000
South Carolina	A Journey to Equal Education: Stories from Historic African American Communities	Charleston County Government	\$50,000
Tennessee	Memphis Heritage Trail	City of Memphis Housing and Community Development	\$50,000
Tennessee	Clayborn Temple Interior Sanctuary Restoration	City of Memphis - Housing and Community Development	\$500,000
Tennessee	Clayborn Temple and the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike	National Trust for Historic Preservation in the U.S.	\$20,000
Texas	Freedmen's Town Stories	Building Community Workshop	\$50,000
Texas	Hopewell Rosenwald Community School	American Youthworks	\$247,094
Virginia	Josephine City School Roof Project	County of Clarke Virginia	\$17,885
Total			\$12,610,000

###



To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Brent Gardner
Sent: 2018-03-12T19:45:34-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Automatic reply: Interior and National Park Service Announce \$12.6 Million in Grants to Preserve African American Civil Rights History
Received: 2018-03-12T19:46:45-04:00

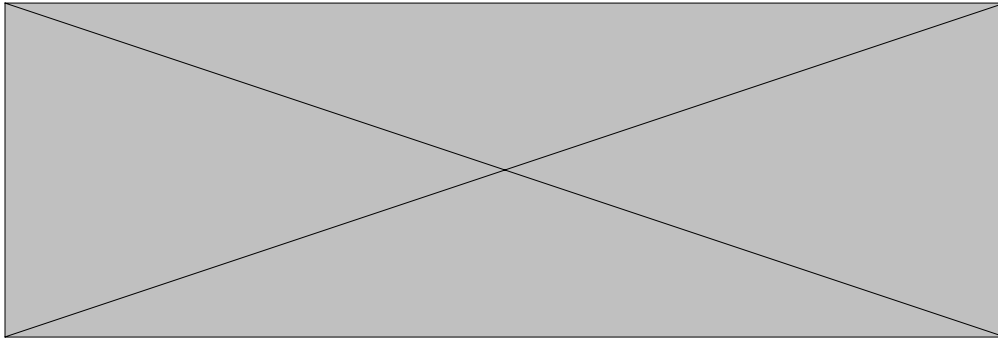
I am out of the office and will not have limited access to email until Monday 3/12. Responses may be delayed.

Many thanks,

Brent

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-13T18:39:38-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Announces \$18 Million of Anvil Points Funding Finally going to Colorado Communities
Received: 2018-03-13T18:40:16-04:00

Promises made and promises are being kept...



Date: March 13, 2018
Contacts: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Announces \$18 Million of Anvil Points Funding Finally going to Colorado Communities

BOISE, Idaho Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Rifle, Colorado, native Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt announced the Department will distribute approximately \$18 million to the State of Colorado after nearly a decade of the funds being withheld by the Federal government.

The funding comes from oil and gas lease revenues generated in Garfield, Rio Blanco, Moffat, and Mesa Counties, that were collected through 2008. The funds were collected to clean up the former Anvil Points Federal oil shale research site. The money allocated is excess funding that was never needed for cleanup purposes and was not returned to the local communities. U.S. Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO), Michael Bennet (D-CO), and Congressman Scott Tipton (R-CO) all applauded the announcement for Colorado. The Senators had been working with the Secretary and Deputy Secretary on this issue since their confirmation interviews.

“The Anvil Points energy payments are now where they belong, with the people of Colorado,” **said Secretary Zinke**. “Rural counties across the west have a unique relationship with the federal government because their economic livelihood is tied to the federal lands that surround the towns. Communities rely on the revenue the local land produces for everything from firefighting to building roads and supporting schools. This is money that belongs to the communities, and I was happy that we could deliver on this promise today.”

“The people of Colorado had to wait far too long before some common sense broke the bureaucratic stonewalling and got them their money,” **said Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt**. “The Senators brought this issue to my and Secretary Zinke’s attention in the early days of our confirmation process, and after working with multiple Departments across the Federal government, we did what was right.”

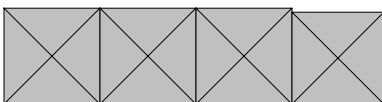
“Today’s announcement is great news for Western Colorado,” **Gardner said**. “Since his confirmation process, I’ve worked closely with Secretary Zinke urging Interior to release the funding, and I appreciate the Secretary and the department for coming through with what will be millions of dollars for these Colorado communities. This is their money not the federal government’s, and each county can now use this funding for how they think is best for their region.”

“Colorado communities waited far too long for the government to release these revenues, and we are glad they will finally receive what is rightfully theirs,” **Bennet said**. “I’ve been working toward this outcome since arriving in the Senate in 2009. Now that Secretary Zinke said ‘the check is in the mail,’ millions of dollars can be put to use by communities on the Western Slope.”

“I have worked for several years to ensure that royalty payments from the Anvil Points oil shale and research facility are returned to Northwest Colorado. Secretary Zinke’s announcement during today’s Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing signals the end to a very long process, and I could not be more thrilled,” **Tipton said**. “This money rightfully belongs to Northwest Colorado, and I am thankful for Secretary Zinke and Deputy Secretary Bernhardt’s leadership on this matter. I look forward to seeing the state disperse the funds to Garfield, Mesa, Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties, so local leaders can dedicate resources to enhancing their communities and improving the lives of all who live there.”

Secretary Zinke has prioritized improving relationships with Local and State governments. In November 2017, Secretary Zinke secured \$20 million for Oregon and in September 2017 announced \$4 million for North Carolina.

###



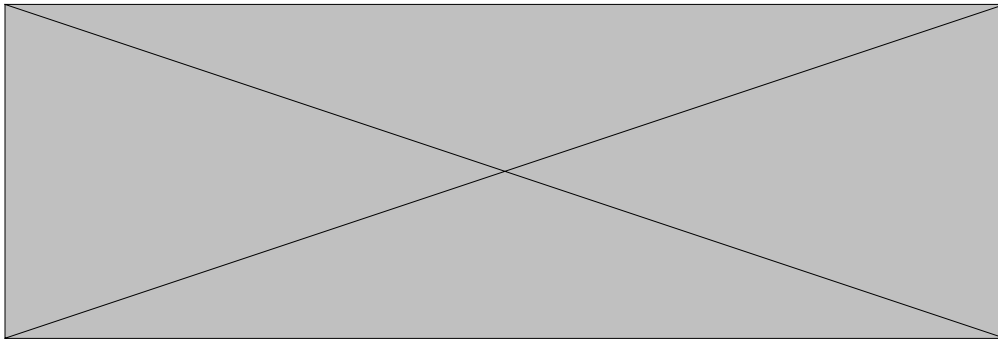
To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Mac Zimmerman
Sent: 2018-03-20T23:24:46-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Automatic reply: Secretary Zinke Announces More That \$1.1 Billion for Sportsmen & Conservation
Received: 2018-03-20T23:24:56-04:00

Thank you for your email.

I will be out of the office this week (3/19 - 3/23), so my email responses may be slower than usual.

Mac

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-21T19:10:21-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Interior Announces Results of Gulf of Mexico Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease
Received: 2018-03-21T19:10:55-04:00



Date: March 21, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Interior Announces Results of Gulf of Mexico Region-Wide Oil and Gas Lease

Sale Yields \$124.7 Million in High Bids on 815,403 Acres, Advances the President's America First Energy Strategy

WASHINGTON In support of President Donald J. Trump's [America-First Offshore Energy Strategy](#), Interior Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Joe Balash today announced that region-wide Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 250 generated \$124,763,581 in high bids for 148 tracts covering 815,403 acres in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. A total of 33 companies participated in the lease sale, submitting \$139,122,383 in bids.

“Today’s lease sale is yet another step our nation has taken to achieve economic security and energy dominance,” **said Assistant Secretary Balash.** “Today’s results will help secure high-paying offshore jobs for rig and platform workers, support staff onshore, and related industry jobs, while generating much needed revenue to fund everything from conservation to infrastructure.”

Lease Sale 250, livestreamed from New Orleans, was the second offshore sale held under the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program (National OCS Program) for 2017-2022. Under this program, 10 region-wide lease sales are scheduled for the Gulf, where resource potential and industry interest are high, and oil and gas infrastructure is well established. Two Gulf lease sales will be held each year and include all available blocks in the combined Western, Central, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Areas.

In January of this year, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced a draft proposed program for a new national OCS program for years 2019-2024. The 60-day public comment period for the draft ended on March 9. After considering all public comments received in response, BOEM will develop and publish a proposed program for public comment later this year, followed by the proposed final program expected in 2019.

“Today’s sale is a continuation of our all-of-the-above energy strategy,” **said Vincent DeVito, Counselor to the Secretary of the Interior for Energy**, “and will result in responsible development of American energy resources.”

The 2017-2022 National OCS Program will continue to be implemented until the new National OCS Program is approved.

Lease Sale 250 included 14,474 unleased blocks, located from three to 231 miles offshore, in the Gulf’s Western, Central and Eastern planning areas in water depths ranging from nine to more than 11,115 feet (three to 3,400 meters).

Excluded from the lease sale are blocks subject to the congressional moratorium established by the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; blocks that are adjacent to or beyond the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in the area known as the northern portion of the Eastern Gap; and whole blocks and partial blocks within the current boundary of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

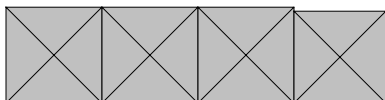
Money received from OCS leases (including high bids, rental payments and royalty payments) are directed to the U.S. Treasury, Gulf Coast states, the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Historic Preservation Fund.

Leases issued as a result of this sale will include stipulations to protect biologically sensitive resources, mitigate potential adverse effects on protected species, and avoid potential conflicts associated with oil and gas development in the region.

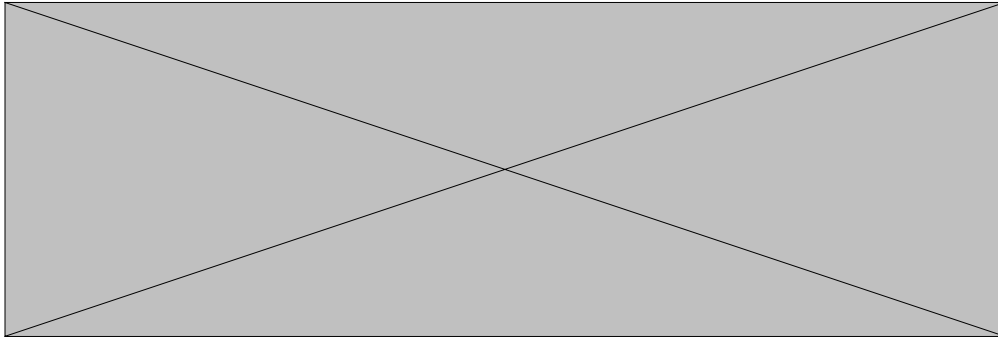
Additionally, BOEM has included appropriate fiscal terms that take into account market conditions and ensure taxpayers receive a fair return for use of the OCS. These terms include a 12.5 percent royalty rate for leases in less than 200 meters of water depth, and a royalty rate of 18.75 percent for all other leases issued under the sale, in recognition of current hydrocarbon price conditions and the marginal nature of remaining Gulf of Mexico shallow water resources.

All terms and conditions for Gulf of Mexico Region-wide Sale 250 were detailed in the Final Notice of Sale (FNOS) information package, which is available at: <http://www.boem.gov/Sale-250/>.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-22T11:59:48-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Ohio to Receive \$23,356,598 in funding for Conservation and Sportsmen Access
Received: 2018-03-22T12:02:43-04:00
[IMG_1540.JPG](#)
[IMG_1576.JPG](#)
[IMG_1589.JPG](#)
[IMG_1602.JPG](#)



Date: March 21, 2018

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Ohio to Receive \$23,356,598 in funding for Conservation and Sportsmen Access

Interior announces funds from Mosquito Lake State Park

CORTLAND, Ohio Today, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced \$23,356,598 million in funding for Ohio from revenues generated by the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts. The announcement was made by Interior's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Aurelia Skipwith from Mosquito Lake State Park, which offers one of the largest lakes in the Buckeye State, where she worked with biologists to collect spawning walleye for the State Fish hatchery program.

State-by-state listings of the final Fiscal Year 2018 apportionments of Wildlife Restoration Program fund can be found [here](#) and the Sport Fish Restoration Program fund [here](#). Allocations of the funds are authorized by Congress. To date, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has distributed more than \$20.2 billion in apportionments for state conservation and recreation projects.

“Programs like the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson grants are a perfect example of the Department of the Interior being a good neighbor,” said **Deputy Assistant Secretary Aurelia Skipwith**. “From state parks in Ohio to shooting ranges out West, the grants foster the kind of partnerships that enhance the visitor experience outdoors for Americans. For almost eighty years,

sportsmen have been investing in American conservation, keeping the traditions of hunting and fishing alive for future generations.”

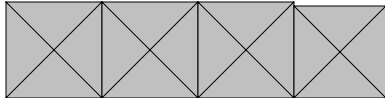
The funds, which are distributed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, support critical state conservation and outdoor recreation projects. They are derived from excise taxes paid by the hunting, shooting, boating and angling industries on firearms, bows and ammunition and sport fishing tackle, some boat engines, and small engine fuel.

Ohio hunters generate \$853 million economic impact for the state while anglers on Lake Erie alone spent over \$1 billion on fishing related expenses last year. Boaters also create \$939 million of economic impact annually.

The recipient state wildlife agencies have matched these funds with approximately \$6.7 billion throughout the years, primarily through hunting and fishing license revenues.

For more information about the WSFR program visit <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/>.

###







U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

2018

March 21, 2018

DATE

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Ohio Department of Natural Resources | \$ 23,356,598

Twenty-three million, three hundred fifty-six thousand, five hundred ninety-eight dollars

FOR Pittman-Robertson/Dingell-Johnson

0001202017001 00614194600 113171





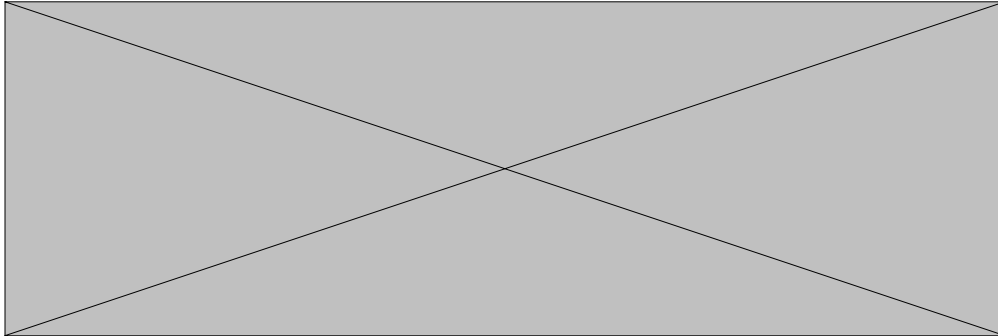
To: Funes, Jason[jason_funes@ios.doi.gov]
From: Mac Zimmerman
Sent: 2018-03-22T12:05:13-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Automatic reply: Ohio to Receive \$23,356,598 in funding for Conservation and Sportsmen Access
Received: 2018-03-22T14:27:51-04:00

Thank you for your email.

I will be out of the office this week (3/19 - 3/23), so my email responses may be slower than usual.

Mac

From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-22T19:21:34-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: Secretary Zinke Continues Meetings with Tribal Nations on Opioid Crisis
Received: 2018-03-22T19:22:13-04:00



Date: March 22, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Continues Meetings with Tribal Nations on Opioid Crisis

WASHINGTON - Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke traveled to Washington State where he held two meetings, one with the Spokane Tribal Business Council and another with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. These meetings focused on the ongoing opioid epidemic and how the Department of the Interior can assist with tribal efforts. On Monday, President Trump announced the latest steps in the administration's push to end the crisis, including launching CrisisNextDoor.gov and Opioids.gov. Earlier this week, Secretary Zinke met with tribal leaders in Arizona and Wisconsin and tomorrow Zinke will meet with the Lummi Tribe.

“This morning’s meetings and discussions with Spokane Tribe and the Colville Tribes were positive and productive,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “While the opioid crisis affects every community in America, more often than not, tribal communities are disproportionately affected. The President and I have prioritized combating the epidemic through education, treatment, enforcement, and of course support. We are looking at how Interior can best support tribal law enforcement in cracking down on drug dealers through a joint task force and how to best support community-based treatment. We strongly believe the best holistic approach will be at the community and tribal level, and we are looking at ways to create programs that engage the women in the tribes because women are the life-givers and hold special places in the community.”

This morning's meeting with the Spokane Tribe began with a welcome and a blessing by the Wellpinit School Drum group at the Immersion School. After introductions, the Secretary and Tribal leadership discussed a number of other priorities including issues related to the Grand Coulee Dam and the Rural Broadband Initiative. Tribal leadership and the Secretary then discussed the opioid epidemic and the challenges it has created in their community. Finally, the group discussed incarceration challenges.

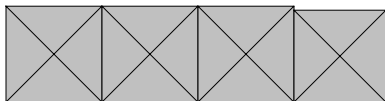
The Secretary met with the Colville Tribes later in the day. The meeting began with a traditional welcome ceremony and lunch with the Business Council. In addition to the opioid crisis, the discussion touched on forest management, wildfire restoration, and the proposed Department of the Interior reorganization.

Today and tomorrow's meetings cap off a week of essential meetings with Tribal leaders and members.

On Monday, Secretary Zinke held an inter-tribal round table in Phoenix, Arizona, with leadership from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Tohono O'odham Nation, Gila River Indian Community, and the Ak-Chin Indian Community.

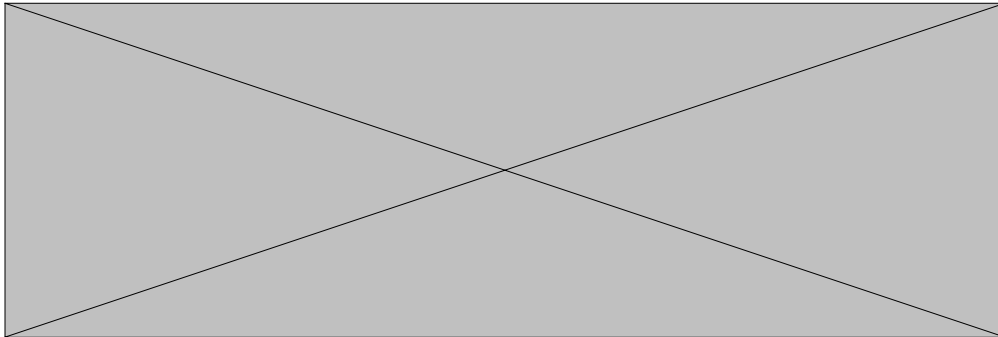
On Tuesday, Secretary Zinke met with the Oneida Nation (WI) leadership in regards to the national opioid crisis. The tribe identified the lack of access to local rehabilitation and counselors as the largest impediment to treatment and was heartened to see the President and the Secretary committed to addressing the stigma that sticks with those suffering with addiction. The meeting ended with a visit to the opioid epidemic memorial, pictured on the Secretary's Twitter account.

###



From: Funes, Jason
Sent: 2018-03-23T18:12:32-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Secretary Zinke Supports Grizzly Bear Restoration in North Cascades Ecosystem
Received: 2018-03-23T18:13:27-04:00
[DSCF3543.JPG](#)
[RKZ_8789.jpg](#)
[RKZ_8801.jpg](#)

ALL Wildlife Matters...



Date: March 23, 2018
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Supports Grizzly Bear Restoration in North Cascades Ecosystem

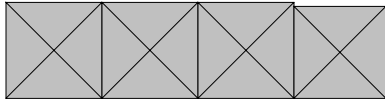
SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WA Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke traveled to Sedro-Woolley, Washington, where he announced support of Grizzly Bear Restoration efforts in the North Cascades Ecosystem. The Secretary emphasized the cultural and spiritual importance of grizzly bears in Tribal communities, the contributions grizzly bears make to the biodiversity of the ecosystem, and the ecological devastation that the permanent loss of grizzly bears would cause if nothing is done.

“Restoring the grizzly bear to the North Cascades Ecosystem is the American conservation ethic come to life,” **said Secretary Zinke.** “We are managing the land and the wildlife according to the best science and best practices. The loss of the grizzly bear in the North Cascades would disturb the ecosystem and rob the region of an icon. We are moving forward with plans to restore the bear to the North Cascades, continuing our commitment to conservation and living up to our responsibility as the premier stewards of our public land.”

The National Park Service (NPS), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), and other

cooperating agencies developed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and conducted numerous public meetings. Over 126,000 comments and correspondence were received on the alternatives. The comments will be analyzed and addressed to be included in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), which is tentatively scheduled for release in late summer of 2018.

###





National Grizzly Recovery Efforts



NORTH CASCADES ECOSYSTEM. The NCE is comparable in size to the state of Washington, covering approximately 9,800 square miles, or 6.1 million acres, within the NCE grizzly bear recovery zone to the north are portions of the NCE, including approximately 442,300 acres of private land within the NCE.

YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM. The GYE is approximately 9,200 square miles, and its grizzly bear population increased from as few as 136 in 1960 to over 1,000 in 2000.